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REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON 30 OCT SESSIONS OF BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

Saudi Minister's Speech

LD312248Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Speech by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal at Arab foreign ministers' conference in Baghdad on 30 October--read by announcer]

[Text] Brothers, we are happy to meet today in Baghdad, a city of a great and glorious history and a brilliant, noble present. I extend my thanks to Iraq--its president, government and people--for what it has done and is doing for the consolidation of the Arab ranks and in the service of the Arab causes. Our meeting is one of the results of the good Iraqi initiatives; I hope our work will be crowned with success. I have no doubt about this so long as we meet in an atmosphere of good faith, with a view to serving our causes and defending our entity; and as long as the basis of our debates and discussions is objectivity, genuine visualization of things and a full comprehension of facts. I should like on this occasion to congratulate His Excellency Dr Sa'dun Hammadi on the trust placed in him by this conference. There is no doubt that he is well suited for this.

Brothers, it is fortunate that this meeting of ours comes in the wake of the historic event which this ancient city has recently witnessed--namely, the meeting which took place recently between the two sisters, Iraq and Syria. The recent encounter between the two sisterly countries, Iraq and Syria, brought happiness to the Arab nation, as a constructive step on the road to fulfilling our aspirations to bring our forces together, to achieve unanimity in what we say and exert joint efforts to work for the good of the Arab nation and its issues of destiny.

Brothers, today we try to trace the road toward a better future and to find adequate solutions to our first national cause, the Palestinian cause. We are proceeding from a fact we have been experiencing for more than 30 years during various kinds and ways of struggle. This fact is that all the Arab countries have borne with honor and honesty their national and historic responsibilities; all of them have made efforts and sacrifices and shed martyrs' blood for the interest of this cause with, in the forefront, the confrontation states--Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO. The latter has, with the assistance of all brothers, borne the biggest burden of the struggle; it has made great political efforts and considerable sacrifices and sacrificed the lives of thousands of its sons and our warriors.

We would have hoped to see the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt taking part in this meeting with us and taking its place among us today, because I do not believe that Egypt has stopped contributing. What Egypt has done for the Arab cause has been done alongside Syria, Jordan and PLO and other Arab countries. All have been equally loyal and given equal sacrifices.

This glance at the past gives us more confidence in what we are doing now and what we will do in the future. It reconfirms to us that our Arab nation, while experiencing its most crucial historic situation, does not lack wisdom and objectivity in its efforts to achieve its national objectives, proceedings from basic principles and taking into consideration various means of confronting political vicissitudes and entangled international circumstances which require a quest for alternatives and preparations and precautions for any eventuality.

Brothers, today as you know, we have been able to attract the attention of public opinion, and we have been able to gain international understanding and sympathy for our cause in the West and in the East, shown by states and peoples all over the world--in Africa, Asia, Europe and the two Americas--because they know that we are fighting for our right and that we call for peace.

This leads me to concentrate on the need for us to proceed in our dealing with the Palestinian cause from the concepts which are likely to consolidate international respect and understanding for us.

Brothers, Saudi Arabia believes that if the Arab states unify their forces and bring their ranks together in the framework of good faith, making supreme Arab interest prevail, and acting objectively, they will be able to exert positive influence in the service of the cause, to preserve the Arab rights and strive to recover it.

We categorically believe that the responsibility of the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, while having always been heavy and crucial, is now more crucial and more pressing. Our Palestinian brothers realize this and know that, more than ever before, their interest requires them to be unified in what they say and to coordinate their efforts for preserving steadfastness and consolidating the strength of the Palestinian people themselves. The good news brought to us in this respect by brother Faruq Qaddumi in this morning's session has moved us because this will positively affect our first and last cause. Being the original owners of the cause, and being concerned before anybody else with the unification of Arab ranks, the Palestinians must give the same importance to the unification of Arab ranks, the impact of this unification, and also the gathering together of the forces of Arabism around the cause. They must do this because of the strength this represents to them--a strength that supports them, aids them and helps them in the realization of their rights and the restoration of their just and legitimate rights.

Brothers, Saudi Arabia has welcomed and taken part in this meeting and it has the same attitude toward the forthcoming summit conference. Saudi Arabia is happy to clearly define how it understands the objectives of this meeting, believing that it is the common understanding of participants in the conference.

First, this conference is designed to unify Arab ranks, and mobilize Arab forces in a practical, constructive direction;

Second, the objective of this conference is to reaffirm the commitment to the Rabat Arab summit conference which took into consideration political vicissitudes at the Arab and international levels;

Third, the Saudi Arabian Government believes that the task of our conference is to concentrate on what positive actions we can take to confront the challenges facing our Arab nation. Such concentration doubtless requires avoiding reactions to others' attitudes and attaching importance to unifying the trends of our nation and directing its potentials toward the consolidation of Arab steadfastness and the building of individual strength, enabling them to move and stand up. Such a concentration also requires us to work for the fulfillment of our national aims.

Fourth, Saudi Arabia has always proceeded, and still proceeds, from the sense of its duty and its invariable belief that what is profitable to the Arab nation is unity, not division; understanding, not invective.

Therefore, it believes and it wants to see this conference achieve objective and practical equations which are in line with the requirements of higher Arab interests. Proceeding from these concepts, Saudi Arabia made known its attitude to the results of Camp David. This attitude is that it is not possible to consider those results an acceptable formula for a comprehensive and just peace, in view of the absence of an explanation of Israel's intention to withdraw from all Arab occupied territories on the one hand, and because they failed to tackle the question of Jerusalem, so as to restore it to Arab sovereignty on the other hand. Also, they do not stipulate the right of the Palestinian people to determine their own fate on their land and in their homeland. They also ignore the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Saudi Arabia does not see any interest for our basic cause in diverting Arab efforts toward blaming a certain state or specific international positions. All of us know quite well that international positions stem from individual interests of states and their international strategies and not from pure friendships or ideals. Hence, it is best for our Arab nation and for our basic causes that our conference remain aloof from rebuke, and that we concentrate our efforts in a constructive manner on our cause and the strategy this cause requires, so as to stand between Israel and its ambition to expand and (?spread). What Israel has achieved in this respect was possible only in the absence of the unity of the Arab ranks on the one hand, and because Israel proceeded from well-studied plans on the other hand.

To confront Israeli challenges and to do away with Israeli ambitions requires our nation to bring its forces together and to lay down a well-studied plan on the basis of realism, objectivity and seriousness, may God guide our steps for the good of the Arab and Islamic nation. Thank you, Mr President.

Libya's At-Turayki Condemns As-Sadat

LD312022Y Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October, JANA--The Foreign Secretary Dr. Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki demanded the condemnation of the defeated Egyptian president for the crimes he committed against the Arab nation by signing the shame and treason accords at "Stable David" with the racist (Israeli) enemy. This came in a speech by Dr. at-Turayki at the evening session of the conference of Arab foreign ministers which started its works at as-Salam Palace in Baghdad yesterday.

Dr at-Turayki explained that the Arab nation is going through a critical stage, therefore it should fully bear its responsibilities.

The foreign secretary wondered whether the location of the Arab League in the Egyptian capital is in the Arab interest while a racist (Israeli) Embassy is about to be opened there.

He reminded of the firm and courageous stands of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah against any relinquishment of the Arab cause and her continuous efforts to restore the usurped rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

Dr at-Turayki strongly condemned the treacherous accords signed by the Egyptian president and terrorist Menahem Begin at "Stable David".

Kuwaiti Working Paper

JN311617Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, last night submitted a working paper to the Arab foreign ministers meeting. The Kuwaiti working paper says the conference should:

1. Adhere to the resolutions of the previous Arab summits, especially the 1974 Rabat summit;

2. Express the Arab countries' belief in a just and lasting peace based primarily on the total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and on the restoration of the complete legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;

3. Realize that the Camp David agreements do not provide for the desired just and lasting peace;

4. Stress the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and to have complete self-determination under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative;

5. Establish an Arab fund to support the confrontation states. The amount of this support should be established by the Arab summit conference, and all Arab countries should take part in this fund, each country according to its resources;

6. Stress that the Arab Republic of Egypt was and will continue to be an integral part of the Arab nation. No one can ignore the role of the Egyptian people in the rebirth of the Arab nation. Doors will remain open to the Arab Republic of Egypt to rejoin and reassume its natural place in the united Arab ranks. Once this is done, the fraternal Arabs will be obliged to continue their support and to help shoulder Egypt's heavy burdens. This will be done within the framework of the Rabat summit resolutions in support of all confrontation states;

7. Block all possibilities of Israeli penetration into the Arab countries. In this respect, the Kuwaiti working paper recommends that the Arab foreign ministers should study the political and economic results in light of the new Egyptian-Israeli situation. The Arab foreign ministers should clarify the influence of the new situation on unanimous Arab cooperation. The Arab foreign ministers should adopt whatever decisions and arrangements are necessary in this regard, and furthermore should draw up plans to prevent Israel from benefiting from the new circumstances with Egypt and trying to achieve its expansionist goals in the Arab countries;

8. Avoid adopting any measure or arrangements that might harm the interests of the Egyptian people. Such measures and arrangements should be restricted to containing and blocking the negative outcome of the Egyptian-Israeli actions;

9. Form a committee made up of all Arab countries. This committee will meet as soon as a settlement is signed between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Zionist enemy. This committee will study the status of the Arab League and will also determine the requirements and means that will enable the Arab League to continue its tasks. The Iraqi Government will invite this committee to meet.

10. Send envoys, on behalf of the conferees, to all world countries--especially to the Islamic and nonalined countries--to explain this Arab stand and to ask for support for this stand because it is the correct way to a just and lasting peaceful settlement;

11. Form a committee made up of seven members to follow the implementation of these resolutions. The Iraqi Government will invite this committee to meet in Baghdad whenever necessary.

The Kuwaiti working paper includes a special decision on Lebanon. This decision calls on the conferees to stress Arab concern about restoring security and stability in Lebanon so as to save the fraternal Lebanese people from the pain of the continuous internal conflict. The conferees are further called on to support Lebanon's territorial integrity and the unity of the Lebanese people, and to support the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers who met in Bayt ad-Din as a positive step in this regard. Because of Lebanon's Arabic identity, the conferees are called on to comdemn any person who cooperates with the Israeli enemy.

Tunisia's Fitouri Addresses Conference

LD312316Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri delivered Tunisia's speech yesterday evening at the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Baghdad. He observed that the attitudes of the Arab states toward the outcome of Camp David ranged from disappointment to downright anger. Although the attitudes varied, they were unanimous that the framework of settlement which emerged from the Camp David conference with regard to the Palestine question did not take the Arab demands into account.

He said the Tunisian Government believes in this connection that the framework agreement concerning the Middle East did not take into consideration the principles which it regards as basic for solving the Middle East question and its core, the Palestine question. First, it overlooked the international community's legal acknowledgment of the need to establish an independent Palestinian state in Palestine--a matter that has been consistently voiced by Tunisia through its President Habib Bourguiba since 1965. Tunisia has been calling on the international community to carry it out in fulfillment of the UN resolutions of 1947. Second, it is not based with the necessary clarity on the principle of rejection of the seizure by force of the territory of others and it is incompatible with the resolutions of the Rabat summit which recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

Lastly, it does not meet the aspiration of the Arab and Islamic nations for regaining Jerusalem.

These are the three principles which the Tunisian Government believes must be reaffirmed at this summit so that both friend and foe will realize that the Arab nation is not prepared to deviate from them as fundamentals in this sacred matter.

Mohamed Fitouri then wondered about the means which should be used to achieve those principles, considering all Arab and international factors. He said that Israel, right from its inception, resorted to the fostering of division in our ranks so that it could deal with us singly, one after the other, and thus achieve its aims. Tunisia believes that by strengthening Arab ranks and the solidarity among the Arab peoples we will be contributing to the weakening of Israel, dashing its hopes and preventing it from attaining its objectives.

It is in the supreme Arab interest that we should not widen the chasm and not allow ourselves to fall into the trap which is set for all of us.

If Arab solidarity serves as the basis for shifting the question toward the desired solution--as shown by the meeting between the sister countries of Syria and Iraq which evoked our deep happiness--then let us have it. Indeed, we should make available the means to enable the confrontation states and the PLO to stand fast and we should back up their material and military capabilities. This is likely to strengthen the Arab position internationally and to create factors which are necessary to make the international community act to impose international legality.

In order that the Arab action may be productive and avoid being misrepresented and exploited, it must be conducted within the framework of the efforts which the Arab nation has been consistently making to attain a just, comprehensive and honorable solution to the Middle East question.

Everyone is aware of the extent of the effort which we ought to make to convince our brothers in Africa, Asia and Latin America and our friends in the world of the need to continue their support for us until the Palestinian people have attained their aim of self-determination and have established their own independent state on their land.

Mohamed Fitouri called on the Arab foreign ministers, on behalf of the Tunisian delegation, to put matters in their proper place while giving due consideration to all dimensions so that they will not leave the impression that they have departed from a sound course and are headed toward extremism and excesses. He said: We adhere to our aims and principles and the unity of our word. No one can blame us for doing so. We are obliged, however, if we want to be convincing and effective, to give our policies suitable formulas which cannot drive our friends away or be exploited and which at the same time serve as effective means for achieving our objectives.

INA REPORTS ON 31 OCT FOREIGN MINISTERS SESSION

JN311512Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, was the next speaker. He suggested forming a committee to study the working papers and stressed Bahrain's adherence to the resolutions of the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences. He also stressed the need for a comprehensive [Israeli] withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as well as the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination under the PLO.

M'Hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, stressed the need to preserve Arab solidarity as well as to safeguard the dignity of the Arab nation. He also called for the liberation of the Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of their state on their soil.

The Moroccan minister called for mobilizing potentials to confront the enemy, recalling that all Arabs adhere to the Rabat resolutions and adding that the just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis should come through the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the city of Jerusalem. He pointed to the importance of achieving positive results that take into consideration a method of action acceptable to all.

Moumine Bahdon, foreign minister of Djibouti [title as received], stressed the need for Arab solidarity and unity of opinion. He said it is a responsibility that should be shouldered by all in order to achieve the intrinsic objectives. He pointed out that recent developments have created a new situation that should be studied calmly in order to find ways to achieve a just and lasting peace and restore the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of the Palestinian state.

Cheikh Baham Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, Mauritanian foreign minister, hailed the joint national action charter between Syria and Iraq and said that Mauritania's stand on the Camp David accords stems from the following considerations:

1. The accords disregard the Palestinian people's rights.

2. They do not provide for the liberation of occupied Jerusalem.

3. They do not provide for the total [Israeli] withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967.

4. They disregard the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He added that the situation is very serious and requires Arab solidarity. He called for forgetting differences and for uniting efforts to achieve Arab solidarity.

The last to speak at today's session was Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somali foreign minister, who called for finding a satisfactory solution to the differences existing among the Arab countries, from which only the enemy can benefit. He added that the Arab nation is facing big difficulties as a result of the hardships through which it is passing.

Following the speeches, discussions and meetings took place between the delegation of Palestine, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Tunisia. They concluded by forming a committee to study the four working papers, unify them and submit them to the fourth session, due to be held tomorrow morning.

Syrian Draft Resolution

JN311642Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic under Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has submitted to the Arab foreign ministers conference currently being held in Baghdad a draft resolution consisting of seven basic points, including the phased objectives of the Arab nation and the bases for joint Arab action on the international level and in the political and military fields. The Syrian Arab draft resolution deals with the position that should be adopted toward the Camp David agreements and rejects all the results of these agreements, calls for stopping all dealings with the Egyptian Government, for stopping financial and economic aid to the Egyptian Government, for breaking off political and economic relations with the Egyptian Government, for expelling the Egyptian Government from the Arab League, for transferring the Arab League headquarters and its offices and the Arab organizations from Cairo to Tunisia, and for applying the boycott laws against all Egyptian establishments and individuals dealing with the Israeli enemy. The draft resolution also calls for the need to follow up on implementation. In this connection it calls for the formation of an Arab foreign ministers committee to follow up on these resolutions.

Jordanian Working Paper

JN3119537 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Arab foreign ministers resumed their meetings this afternoon at As-Salam Palace in Baghdad.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab foreign ministers conference, submitted a written working paper on behalf of Jordan, including a summary of official Jordanian views to address the crisis the Arab world is currently passing through. The Jordanian working paper consists of the following basic elements:

1. The Arab nation, in its conflict with Zionist expansion throughout the past decades, has witnessed losses in land and in its psychological and moral position.

2. The Arab nation encountered setbacks because of Arab disintegration, various aspects of backwardness and Arab confrontation's lack of planning by Arab leaders in confronting the aggressive danger within a well-studied and practical plan that includes political and diplomatic ways of building an intrinsic force and organizing the Arab stand on sound bases.

3. In order to stop Arab deterioration and expansionist aggression, precise and long planning is required to strengthen the Arab stand and bolster the Arab structure on the basis of a well-studied, serious and long-term plan based on the following:

A. Building Arab relations on the basis of clear and frank dealing, a fraternal spirit and confidence, surmounting quarrels and concentrating on joint aspects of relations and not on differences;

B. Building an intrinsic Arab force by establishing a joint command that will draw up a detailed military plan that builds up gradually in accord with available resources. The Arab chiefs of staff will undertake drawing up this plan at a meeting for this purpose, concentrating on the following priorities:

First: Building the military ability of the confrontation states; and

Second: Building defensive barriers in the areas most vulnerable to aggression.

C. Strengthening the steadfastness of Arab people in the occupied land by keeping them in their land and preventing emigration within the framework of a constant moral and material policy;

D. Safeguarding the unity of the Palestinian people and strengthening their struggle by keeping them away from Arab conflicts and unifying Palestinian action, organizing the financing of the Palestinian struggle and introducing the Palestinian struggle into the framework of the strategy of the joint Arab plan;

E. Building a joint Arab political and diplomatic stand to support Arab aims and the Palestinian question on the international level and before the world, within the framework of a program to be agreed to by the Arab foreign ministers at a meeting to be held for this purpose;

F. Drawing up a specific economic and financial policy for the Arab countries within the framework of joint economic and financial organizations to boost development and to achieve the highest possible profits from Arab financial resources, in order to influence the countries that can influence the Arab-Israeli conflict in accord with a plan to be agreed on by the Arab finance and economy ministers at a meeting to be held for this purpose;

C. Drawing up a sound information policy to strengthen the goals of the Arab plan on the international level in a program to be agreed on by the Arab information ministers at a meeting to be held for this purpose.

Committee Prepares Working Paper

JN3119 48Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--Following a closed meeting lasting five hours, the six-member committee stemming from the Arab foreign ministers' conference has prepared a unified working paper to be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers conference tomorrow.

It will be recalled that the six-member committee is made up of Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia and Kuwait.

Financial Aid to Confrontation States

JN0107 34Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Nov 78 pp 1, 12 JN

[By Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud and Nizar al-Hindawi]

[Text] Baghdad--The Arab foreign ministers yesterday held a preliminary discussion on distribution of financial shares of the Joint Pan-Arab Fund to confrontation states. It has been proposed that $2 billion will be alloted to Syria, $1 billion to Jordan, $150 million to the PLO, and $150 million to the steadfast forces in the occupied territories.

Funds for the steadfast forces will be distributed through a joint committee made up of Jordan and the PLO. It has also been proposed to allot $5 billion to Egypt in case it goes back on the Camp David agreements. If Egypt does not do so within a specified period, the $5 billion will be shared by the confrontation states.

CHIEF OF JORDANIAN ROYAL COURT ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN3111 42Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, arrived at Baghdad International Airport at noon today. In a statement upon arrival, Sharaf told an INA correspondent that His Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, will arrive in Baghdad on Thursday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to participate in the Arab summit conference.

'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf said that King Husayn is looking forward to meeting with his brother President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the officials of fraternal Iraq. He said that King Husayn will participate in the summit conference and will do his utmost to ascertain the success of this summit in order to find the bases for joint pan-Arab work and agree on a plan to secure the defense of the Arab fate as well as to mobilize the Arabs' potentialities and rebuild Arab solidarity in order to face the future with confidence and great hope.

LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

JN3117 39Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad--Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and acting foreign minister, a arrived here this evening to participate in the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers conference, which started yesterday morning. He was received at the airport by Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; and several Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to INA, Al-Huss said: We look upon the summit conference called for by fraternal Iraq as a historic opportunity to restore unity to the Arab ranks at this critical stage through which the Arab cause is passing, and at a time during which the Arab stand is exposed to many dangers of division and disintegration.

Al-Huss added: Out of our belief in the need to preserve the unity of stand and ranks, we welcome the convening of this historic conference in order to restore the state of affairs to normal and return understanding among the Arab countries regarding the fateful issues that concern them. He stressed that Lebanon is directly concerned with this conference because it has been facing an acute crisis for more than 3 years.

ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS RESUME MEETINGS 1 NOV

JN010830Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 November--The Arab foreign ministers today resumed their meeting here for the third day running.

The discussions of the foreign ministers will center on the unified working paper that was prepared yesterday by a six-member committee made up of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, the PLO and Tunisia.

The working paper will include the gist of five working papers submitted to the conference by Kuwait, PLO, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. The paper will also include the views exchanged at the ministers' meeting. The session which is the fourth in the series of meetings of the Arab foreign ministers, is confined to the heads of delegations. The Arab foreign ministers adjourned their closed meeting this morning after discussing the unified working paper prepared by the six-member committee.

The ministers are expected to resume their closed meeting this afternoon to continue their discussion of the unified working paper.

Sudanese Delegate

JN010920Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 1 November--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM quotes Muhammad Mirghani, Sudan's representative to the Arab foreign ministers conference, as saying he strongly opposes Egypt's isolation because it represents the heart of the Arab nation.

Mirghani stressed that boycotting Egypt would mean the liquidation of the Arab presence from the heart of the greatest Arab country.

MINISUMMIT ON LEBANON EXPECTED IN BAGHDAD

JN010908Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 1 November--Quoting sources of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab foreign ministers' conference now meeting in Baghdad, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports that a minisummit is expected to be held during the summit conference. The minisummit will include Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Quoting the same sources, the paper says that the Bayt ad-Din conference recently held in Beirut commissioned Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Syria to implement the resolutions and solve the problems obstructing Lebanon's stability.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT MAKES STATEMENT TO QATARI PAPER

NC011105Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 1 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 1 November--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated: "Our aim during the conference of steadfastness and confrontation held recently in Damascus was to fill the vacuum in our Arab region after Camp David."

In an exclusive statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB published today, "Arafat calls on the Arab nation to fill this vacuum with all its forces and all its material, oil, military, and manpower resources, and through cooperation and coordination with the socialist states, especially the Soviet Union.

He explains that the recent contacts between the PLO and the Soviet Union were for the purpose of holding consultations and exchanging views to face this serious phase through which the Middle East is passing. He added: "My visit to the Soviet Union before the convening of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad falls within this context."

On the importance of having forces of the Palestinian revolution on the Jordanian front, 'Arafat said that this topic was raised on more than one occasion, the latest being during the summit conference of steadfastness and confrontation held in Damascus, and also during the visit which Libyan Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and I paid to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. He added that it has been agreed to form a committee to follow up on the matter with Jordan.

On the idea of forming a Palestinian Government in exile, he emphasized that the Palestinian leadership (?is not) contemplating anything of this sort at this time. He reaffirmed that the formation of any such government requires a decision which the PLO will make when it concludes that such a decision is in the interest of the revolution and the Palestinian people.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST AFTER CAMP DAVID

LD301255Y London THE GUARDIAN in English 27 Oct 78 p 15 LD

[David Hirst interview in Beirut with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat: "When you put a cat in a corner it is going to scratch. But we are not cats, we are tigers. If we are put in a corner it is our right to defend"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] Palestinians will fight the self-rule plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat warned last night. The Camp David agreement amounts to slavery, he told me in an interview at his Beirut office. President as-Sadat of Egypt has "knifed" the Palestinians, he said.

"What has been done by our people on the West Bank--mayors, municipalities and unions--is wonderful. It gives proof that our people will not let the results of Camp David including 'self-rule' pass, not because we are against peace, no, because we are against slavery. And what they are offering to the Palestinian people at Camp David is a new slavery--for an unlimited period, and given legality by the acceptance of Americans and Egyptians. The difference between Begin's original peace plan and Camp David is cosmetic only.

Hirst: Some people say that, like the Zionists, you should accept a little now, in the knowledge that you will get more later.

'Arafat: You, the British, were helping the Zionists by all means from the moment you entered Palestine in 1916 till the departure of your troops--leaving your weapons with the Haganah, don't forget that. Now the Americans and Israelis have enough power to prevent my people getting their rights through such methods. We believe that through other methods, through struggle and the help of our friends all over the world, we will achieve our aims. It is not easy, I know, but when we started our revolution we were not inviting anyone for a picnic. We invited our people to a long war.

Hirst: Is there any kind of change in Camp David which would enable the PLO to join in?

'Arafat: A change in Camp David: Look, the Americans are against the Palestinian rights. Till now, they are opposing all resolutions on behalf of the Palestinian people at the UN. They are for self-determination and human rights as a principle, but this principle stops when they apply to the Palestinians. Carter is for self-determination for Rhodesia, while he is against it for the Palestinians. A contradiction, yes?

Hirst: But last year Carter said he supported the idea of a Palestinian homeland?

'Arafat: The Americans retreated from their first "working paper" after a six-hour meeting with Dayan, and announced their second "working paper." They went back completely on what they agreed with the other superpower, the Soviet Union, in their joint communique in October 1977. These are people with no respect for international legality. No respect for their Arab friends, no respect for the other superpower. How can you ask me to believe they can have any respect for the Palestinians--when all they offer us is slavery?

Hirst: Saudi Arabia should be insulted by the American attitude?

'Arafat: The Saudis can reply for themselves. They had promises from the Americans, but till now they have not been fulfilled.

Hirst: Are the Americans still trying to woo you?

'Arafat: Woo me? Oh yes. I am a Ku Klux Klanner, a Nazi, a communist, an Islamic-Marxist. I ask you, how can you be a communist and Nazi at the same time? It is another contradiction.... When Carter says all his slogans against the PLO, and As-Sadat says we are spoiling his peace--I mean his surrender--this means they are preparing for a new campaign, maybe not only a military campaign, but at different levels--military, political, psychological and through the mass media.

Hirst: But the main thrust will be military?

'Arafat: Yes.

Hirst: Do you see this in the context of a new alliance in the area--Israel, Egypt and some people include Iran?

'Arafat: It is they who have declared something like that. It is not me. Some Egyptian newspapers are speaking about it. And some Israeli, American, and European newspapers.

We say: no smoke without a fire. But in any case it does not scare us. Of course there may be more pressure on us. When you put a cat in a corner it is going to scratch. But we are not cats, we are tigers. If we are put in a corner it is our right to defend ourselves.
Hirst: Is that where you feel yourself to be today?

'Arafat: No, but they are trying to push me there. One of the aims of Camp David is to besiege the PLO and the Palestinian people. But what happened? There was a world-wide referendum in their favour. The world was divided into two camps, one for Camp Daivd, the other against. He who was against Camp David was with us. And all those who said "yes" said "yes, but." And this "yes but" ranged between supporting the PLO, self-determination, a Palestine state, or just the rights of the Palestinian people, isn't that an international plebiscite? They cannot wipe out the Palestinian factor.

Hirst: Do you consider As-Sadat to be a greater traitor than Wasfi at-Tall (the Jordanian prime minister assassinated for his role in driving out the Palestinian resistance from Jordan)?

'Arafat: I regret to say that As-Sadat has knifed the Palestinain people. He is the first Egyptian to do this. Kind Faruq never abandoned the Palestinian people, but As-Sadat did. If only he had just abandoned us, but he actually works against us.

Hirst: Do you think we shall ever see an Israeli ambassador in Cairo--at a time when there is no Egyptian ambassador in Damascus?

'Arafat: I don't say it cannot happen, but it is an unnatural thing. Let us look at the position of the Egyptian people. The communists are against Camp David, so are the Nasirists, the Wafdists, the Moslem brethren, and the five remaining members of ('Abd an-Nasir's) Revolutionary Command Council. This is a very important sign. And out of 40 million Egyptians As-Sadat cannot find one to be foreign minister. We know how power operates in Egypt. The ruler is always strong--but the people are stronger.

Hirst: But they are poor and tired?

'Arafat: No. We know the Egyptian people. Their movement is like the movement of the Nile: slow-but violent.

Hirst: If Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is fairly impressed by Husayn's resistance to Egyptian and American pressures, presumably you are too?

'Arafat: I encourage this kind of stand...I don't expect him to take any other, considering what he is being offered: The job of policeman alongside Israel, against the Palestinians--and without Jerusalem. For us--Moslems, Christians, Arabs--Jerusalem means more than you imagine in the West. But it is enough for you to understand that foreign ministers of Moslem countries have accepted my appeal for an Islamic conference to be held next month--for Jerusalem.

Hirst: As-Sadat says he has not abandoned Jerusalem.

'Arafat: It is enough to recall what Begin told the Knesset. That he brought the Israelis three victorious elements: No to the PLO, no to a Palestine state, and one Israeli flag for Jerusalem. Some newspapers asked him if he would accept an Arab flag there. He said: Yes. 22 of them. On the embassies. But I shall have my flag there, sooner or later.

Hirst: Can we say that the new attitude of Iraq is an illustration of the way in which the As-Sadat "sell-out" can bring even the most recalcitrant back into the fold?

'Arafat: There is no question that Camp David will cause earthquakes in the whole Arab region. That is something which the Americans did not include in their calculations at Camp David. I believe in the computer, but it is not always right. It did not get things right, for example, in Vietnam, Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Lebanon, during four years of civil war in Lebanon, or against our people in the occupied territories. You British know better than anyone that the Middle East is a region of shifting sands.

Hirst: Will there be anti-American policies as such?

'Arafat: Have we ever been their friends? Have they ever been our friends?

Hirst: But you called for striking at American interests in one of your speeches.

'Arafat: Yes, I did say that--and out loud.

Hirst: Could you elaborate?

'Arafat: I always prefer not to talk too much.

Hirst: Do you expect the Arab masses to take their own kind of action independent of the PLO?

'Arafat: I prefer to wait and see. It is a region of shifting sands. Who would have believed that such things would happen in Iran? Demonstrators who go out and raise Fatah banners proclaiming revolution until victory.

AL-ANWAR: OPEC TO INCREASE OIL PRICES BY 15 PERCENT

NC0110302Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1004 GMT 1 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 1 November--The Lebanese newspaper AL-ANWAR today confirmed that during its 16 December meeting in Abu Dhabi, OPEC will raise oil prices by 15 percent, effective from the beginning of 1979.

The paper says that this increase is a compromise between the minimum of 10 percent advocated by Saudi Arabia and the maximum of 25 percent advocated by Iraq.

Quoting a responsible Arab source, the paper says that both the United States and Japan approve of the principle of increasing the prices, because it is inconceivable for the oil prices to remain at the present level after 2 years of high inflation, in addition to the drop in the value of the dollar and the resulting effect on the investment of oil income deposits.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD RECEIVES BROTHER OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT

LD311532Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, regent and crown prince, received at the royal palace in Jidda at 1130 today Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the regional command of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and commander of the Syrian defense units, who is on a current visit to the kingdom.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Shaykh Abd al Muhsin az-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to Damascus, and 'Abd al-Hamid Darkal, ambassador of Syria to the kingdom.

Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the regional command of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and commander of the Syrian defense units, left Jidda for Riyadh at 1400 this afternoon. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, and a number of senior military and civilian officials.

YEMEN--YAR

TRIAL OF DEFENDANTS IN ABORTIVE COUP TO BEGIN 1 NOV

JN311814Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Supreme State Security Court will begin tomorrow, 1 November 1978, its sessions to try the second group of defendants in the abortive coup attempt that took place on the morning of 15 October and whose aim was to abort the gains of the revolution and the republic and to undermine the achievements of development in the country.

FOREIGN MINISTER: YAR WILL NOT RELINQUISH PAN-ARAB ISSUES

JN311815Y San'a' Domestic Service Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] The foreign minister, brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, today announced that the YAR Government adheres to Arab solidarity and its pan-Arab responsibilities. It will not relinquish the principled issues. In a statement today in Baghdad, the foreign minister said the YAR hopes that the Arab foreign ministers conference will come out with practical results that will strengthen the confidence in joint Arab efforts and secure legitimate Arab rights in Palestine, Sinai and the Golan. The foreign minister added that this conference should help to open all doors wide for the current and future Arab struggle.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ON CURRENT SITUATION

NC312255Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 31 Oct 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 31 October--Dr Usamah al-Baz, the first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and member of the Egyptian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, has described Israel's decision to flesh out the settlements in the West Bank as an unnecessary provocation and an obstacle to peace that must be overcome before signing a peace treaty.

This was stated by Dr al-Baz in an interview granted to John (Wallace) Hearst publications.

Dr al-Baz stressed that the Israeli decision is the first real obstacle on the horizon since the Egyptian delegation's arrival in Washington. He said that there was no need for such an action which only causes excitement.

Al-Baz said that he hopes that the United States and Israel will overcome this obstacle so that the peace discussions can continue.

Dr Usamah al-Baz pointed out that it is necessary to remove this obstacle before tackling other matters.

Asked whether President as-Sadat can sign a peace treaty if Israel persists in its stands, Dr al-Baz said: It is very difficult for me to say but we must be sure of what we will get in the future before signing. He pointed out that since Camp David, Israeli officials have engaged in a series of actions and statements which will arouse the fear of the Jordanians and the Palestinians. He referred in this regard to Israel's statements that it will keep its forces in the West Bank to continue its occupation and that the Israeli Government will continue to set up settlements despite the two Camp David agreements.

Dr al-Baz said that King Husayn of Jordan is committed to the peace process. He added that the king would participate in the discussions were it not for the fact that he considers the Israeli attitude as defiant. Al-Baz added that King Husayn would participate in the discussions only if the Israeli attitude is changed. He also said that King Husayn needs to have Israel change its position so that it will be clear that everything is negotiable and that Israel does not prejudge any case through precautionary measures such as the expansion of the settlements to beyond the borders agreed upon at Camp David.

Dr al-Baz said that Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and the settlements will be an example to be applied in the West Bank and Gaza. This, he said, is how we view things.

Dr al-Baz accused the Israeli negotiators of being totally uncooperative in the question of linking a peace agreement with the achievement of a comprehensive settlement. He said that they have worked to complicate the question of the linkage.

Dr al-Baz said: Both the Egyptians and the Israelis must think of [word indistinct] action on the other fronts--the West Bank and Gaza. He said that if there is no such action, the things that have been said will not be approved. He pointed out that this question is important to the United States to reassure the Palestinians that they will not be abandoned. He said that the purpose of this is to attract the Palestinians to the negotiation process, because they will have a good opportunity if they participate in the peace process.

Al-Baz said that the two agreements provide for the establishment of full diplomatic relations when Israel completes its initial withdrawal from Sinai, scheduled to begin 6 to 9 months after signing the treaty. He added: We will establish normal relations. The level of these relations and their date will be the subject of an agreement between the two sides. Nothing will be decided in the dark and everything will progress normally.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

NC311549Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 31 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 October--Egyptian Air Force Commander Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im has affirmed that the aim of the air force will always be to defend the achievements accomplished through the great October victory. This will require persistence in improving the capability of this force and developing its equipment and tactics. He said that in order to do this it will be necessary to exert continuous and sincere efforts.

The Egyptian Air Force commander said at a press conference today on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the air force, that peace is not a call for military relaxation. On the contrary, it is necessary to have strong armed forces capable of action, combat ready at all time and ready to carry out the missions they are assigned.

'Abd al-Mun'im asserted that the Egyptian Air Force will always be ready and worthy of the precious trust of the great Egyptian people. It will always be a shield of a just peace just as it has been a shield in war for the sake of peace.

FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAMED IN BRIBERY CASE

LD311415Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Oct 78 p 1 LD

[Text] An official source at the prime minister's office has stated the following:

The U.S. Government yesterday advised Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil that the U.S. Justice Department has filed a case against the Westinghouse Electric company in accordance with U.S. laws on charges of paying a bribe in connection with two contracts between the Ministry of Electric Power in Egypt and the company.

The prime minister, having learned that former Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Ahmad Sultan is the one involved in this charge, has contacted the socialist attorney and the public prosecutor and informed them of the matter. He was asked that the necessary measures in accordance with the law be taken against Engineer Ahmad Sultan pending the receipt of official information from the U.S. Government.

IRAQ, SOVIET FIRM SIGN CONTRACT ON OIL RESERVOIRS

JN311930Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--The Iraqi establishment for the distribution of oil and gas byproducts and the Soviet machine export firm today signed an agreement under which the latter will build oil reservoirs of various sizes in several Iraqi regions.

The contract, worth 1.25 million Iraqi dinars, will be implemented by the Soviet firm by the end of next year at the latest.

The signing of the contract is part of the plan for meeting storage and distribution requirements of oil byproducts throughout Iraq.

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY

JN311524Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 31 October--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, received this morning Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs.

During the meeting, a review was made of the scope of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and the means of developing them in the Arab nation's interests.

They also discussed the current Arab situation in light of the developments witnessed by the Arab nation.

Dr at-Turayki is currently attending the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers in Baghdad.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH LEBANESE PREMIER

JN010845Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 November--Dr Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and acting foreign minister, met here today with Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi foreign minister and chairman of the Arab foreign ministers' conference.

In a statement to INA following the meeting, Dr al-Huss said that Dr Hammadi had briefed him on the course of the deliberations of the six-member ministerial committee that prepared the unified working paper.

Al-Huss added: Our discussion also dealt with the Lebanese problem and the ways of solving it within the framework of the conference's discussions.

Saddam Husayn Meets Al-Huss

JN011000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 November--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, met here this morning with Dr Salih al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and acting foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed the Arab situation in light of developments and events in the Arab area, including developments in the Lebanese situation. They also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to develop cooperation.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and Qasim as-Samawi, Iraq's ambassador to Lebanon.

Dr al-Huss is currently in Baghdad to participate in the Arab foreign ministers conference.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST DELEGATION LEAVES AFTER VISIT

JN312109Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 October--The delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement under George Hawi, deputy chairman of the movement's Central Political Council and assistant secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, left Baghdad this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq. During its stay the delegation held talks with officials at the national command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on the current Arab situation, particularly in Lebanon.

In a press statement Hawi said that viewpoints were in agreement regarding the topics discussed, foremost of which was the need to consolidate the unity of the Arab progressive forces and to mobilize the potential of the Arab nation so as to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our Arab nation.

PLANNING MINISTER MEETS WITH DJIBOUTI OFFICIAL

JN010953Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 1 November--'Adnan Husayn, Revolution Command Council member and planning minister, met here today with Moumine Bahdo Farah, [name as received] Djibouti foreign minister.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around bilateral relations and the means of strengthening them.

The Djibouti minister is heading his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers conference.

'ARAFAT EXPECTED TO VISIT JORDAN AFTER ARAB SUMMIT

JN010721Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Nov 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Baghdad--AR-RA'Y team--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is expected to visit Jordan immediately after the Arab summit.

AD-DUSTUR: MINISTERS MUST DRAW UP ALTERNATIVE TO CAMP DAVID

JN311850Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Oct 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "What Is Required From the Arab Foreign Ministers"]

[Excerpts] The Arab foreign ministers conference has begun its meetings in Baghdad. There are now five working papers before the conference, submitted by Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and the PLO. In order for the conference to undertake its mission frankly and without vagueness or ambiguity, we must say that it is necessary to "find an alternative to the Camp David agreements on which the Arabs will agree." Obviously, "defining this alternative" and "agreement on it" are the essential pillars for any joint action by the Arabs to confront the successive challenges and to liberate their land and people and to insure the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to determine their future.

Cairo's pretext in defending the Camp David agreements is its basic argument that the Arabs did not submit an alternative to the agreements. So it is high time that the Arab foreign ministers draw up an alternative plan. This, in fact, is the task the Arab masses are expecting them to perform. Cairo, then, will find itself faced with one of two options: either it joins the Arab march, or the march proceeds without Cairo. In either case, what is important is that the Arabs have one plan and a clear goal. This plan will move the Arab stand from the mere verbal denunciation of agreements and challenges to well-studied, balanced and positive action to confront the challenges and liberate the land and the people.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS DENOUNCE AWARDING GOLD MEDAL TO BEGIN

JN311757Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 31 October--Heads of the Christian communities in Jordan today denounced the decision of the Council of Churches in New York to award a gold medal to Israel's Prime Minister Menahem Begin for his so-called efforts for peace.

In a cable to the Council of Churches, the Christian communities reviewed the crimes committed by Begin that led to the displacement of more than 1 and 1/2 million Arabs now living a miserable and tragic life. The cable added that history, humanity and heavenly laws do not allow that Begin be among those who deserve appreciation and honor.

It will be recalled that the Council of Churches in New York has awarded Menahem Begin the gold medal for his so-called efforts for peace.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON BAGHDAD MEETINGS

JN011350Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, has stated that unanimity exists among all the parties on the convening of the Arab summit conference and its success. There is also agreement on formulating a joint action program which will be a common denominator among the Arab countries.

In a statement to JNA and Jordan television in Baghdad today, his excellency stated that there is agreement in principle to adapt a joint action program aimed at strengthening steadfastness and supporting the Arab frontline states.

His excellency stated that there are some differences of opinion on issues and the latest political developments. However, efforts are underway to narrow the gap among the different viewpoints and to concentrate on the common denominator and pan-Arab action.

Sharif Sharaf added that His Majesty King Husayn has addressed explicit directives for Jordan to work for the success of the conference and exert efforts to have the conference come out with a positive program which will achieve joint action and pan-Arab commitments within long-term planning.

His Excellency 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf and Hasan Ibrahim continued their side meetings and consultations with a number of delegation heads of the Arab foreign ministers conference. They reviewed with them the various efforts exerted in order to achieve the best results by the Arab summit conference to serve the higher Arab interests.

In a related development, Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad, has stated that the sessions held by the Arab foreign ministers yesterday were characterized by the sincere wish to come away from the conference with a working paper on which all would agree and which would safeguard the unity of Arab ranks.

In a statement to JNA and Jordan television at Dar as-Salam Palace in Baghdad, Hasan Ibrahim stated that the final working paper the Arab foreign ministers are drafting includes all the subjects which have been put forth for discussion and which could be a suitable basis for submitting to the kings and presidents.

Ibrahim added that he is optimistic the conference will have positive results and expressed confidence that the conference will be crowned with success to serve the Arab nation's objectives.

SARKIS TO LEAVE FOR BAGHDAD 2 NOVEMBER

NC010707Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpt] The circle of political activity is expanding to cover a number of capitals. Effective Lebanese participation in the Arab summit conference due to begin tomorrow will be the most prominent aspect of the activity. His excellency President Ilyas Sarkis is due to leave Beirut tomorrow to attend the conference.

SAUDI ARABIA TO BOLSTER DETERRENT FORCES

NC311251Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Oct 78 NC

[Text] At 1000, President Ilyas Sarkis met with Saudi Ambassador Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, who returned from Saudi Arabia. The discussion, which lasted about 1 hour, dealt with current developments in the wake of the Bayt ad-Din resolutions.

Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said that he conveyed the gist of his talks in Saudi Arabia to President Sarkis. He also informed the president that Saudi officials agreed to bolster the Saudi contingent currently serving in Lebanon with new platoons to enable it to carry out its duties more effectively.

The Saudi ambassador further stated: I returned from Saudi Arabia the day before yesterday. During the meeting, I conveyed the best regards of the Saudi crown prince and the king's deputy, Amir Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to President Sarkis. I also conveyed to the president the gist of my discussion with the foreign minister, Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, concerning the measures taken in the wake of the Bayt ad-Din conference and the steps which have been carried out to date. The ambassador added: I conveyed to the Saudi officials the Saudi contingent's need for support with new platoons. Hence, it was agreed to bolster the Saudi contingent with new platoons in such numbers as to enable it to carry out its assigned duties in the area in the best way.

Asked about the arrival date of the new platoons to Lebanon, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said: I think they might arrive immediately after the pilgrimage season and, at any rate, in not more than 3 weeks.

Asked finally if Saudi Arabia is satisfied with the measures which have been implemented so far and which stem from the Bayt ad-Din conference resolutions, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir replied: We continue to observe events and are satisfied with what has been achieved to date. However, we can do more. When I say "we," I mean we in the Lebanese arena. We can achieve much more. We are also in dire need of good intentions and a sincere will and determination so that we can transcend the current crisis. If I have anything to add, it is a request to all fraternal journalists in Lebanon to stress the positive and transcend the negative, because currently we are in the direst need of support for the march of peace and progress. I am completely sure that the fraternal journalists are aware of this fact, so let them act on it.

Sudanese To Be Reinforced

NC311834Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 31 Oct 78 NC

[Text] The commander of the Sudanese contingent in Beirut stated that the Sudanese Government has decided to reinforce the 1,000-man contingent by 250 more people.

The commander added that the rotation of Sudanese forces in Lebanon will take place in stages beginning tomorrow morning. Tomorrow's rotation will involve 220 soldiers. The Sudanese commander, Colonel (Saghirun) said that he will be transferred to the morale guidance directorate in the general command in Khartoum in 1 month and that Col 'Abd ar-Rahim Muhammad will replace him.

VOL REPORTS CIVILIANS WOUNDED BY SNIPER FIRE

NC311836Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 31 Oct 78 NC

[Excerpts] Two civilians were wounded by Syrian sniper fire in Al-Ghazal Street in Sinn al-Fil this afternoon. A Red Cross vehicle was unable to enter the street to remove the two wounded. Fire was opened on the car preventing it from carrying out its humanitarian mission.

A Lebanese Army soldier was waiting near Salome traffic circle for a military vehicle to take him to his post when Syrian snipers opened fire critically wounding him. He was taken to a hospital.

In the capital, intermittent shooting continued to be heard on the battlelines. The same thing occurred also on the Badaru, At-Tayyunah and Ash-Shiyah--'Ayn ar-Rumannah axes.

ARMY DIVISION ATTACKS DESERTER GROUP

NC011145Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Nov 78 NC

[Statement issued by Fifth Division, Lebanese Army Command, 1 November]

[Text] Acting on instructions issued by Army Commander General Khuri, the 2d Division, Army Command--on the night of 31 October 1978--completed gathering all information related to what is called "the revolutionary movement of the Lebanese Army." That movement took over military vehicles by force, abducted military personnel and took them away to the secret gathering place of the movement's members.

On the morning of 1 November 1978, combat elements belonging to the 2d Army Division headed for the center in which the movement is located. The army division encircled the site and instructed those who were in it to surrender. However, the movement's commander, an army deserter by the name of Captain Samir al-Ashqar, started firing on combatant elements and ordered his personnel to open fire with all types of weapons. The combatant elements then tightened their circle and again warned everybody to surrender. The movement's members did not heed the warning and continued to fire. That led our men to break into the center and occupy it with utmost speed. The deserter, Captain Samir al-Ashqar, was critically wounded. Another soldier belonging to the insurrectionist movement, Michel 'Assaf, was also hit. They were both moved to the Central Military Hospital. All the equipment, mechanized weapons and other weapons in the center were seized. Another deserter, 2d Lt Salim Khuryati, was also arrested, together with 12 more members of that movement.

The combatant elements sustained no casualties. The army commander, out of a desire to preserve the army's safety, mentions the contents of his previous communiques, namely: Any attempt aimed at harming the safety and dignity of the army will be nipped in the bud.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH TELEVISION

JN311135Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with French Television II in Damascus on 28 October--read by announcer]

[Text] Question 1: Mr President, you reconciled in a sensational manner with Iraq with whom you have differed for years. Was it the Camp David talks and later the Washington talks, that prompted both countries to change their minds?

Answer: When nations face danger, they search for points of strength. We are in a situation in which we are facing grave dangers. Therefore, it is only natural for us to search for points of strength which we may have ignored in the past. If what we did--the meeting between Syria and Iraq and the results of the meeting--is sensational, it would be strange not to have done so; in other words, it would have been strange not to have made every possible effort to achieve that meeting and to consolidate the efforts of the two countries in a real confrontation with an enemy who aims at harming our interests, aspirations and legitimate Arab hopes.

Question 2: Mr President, do you think that the danger is greater than what it was a few weeks ago?

Answer: Of course. Because an important part of Arab power has left the confrontation arena; as a matter of fact, it has switched trenches. It has switched from the Arab trench to the Israeli trench.

Question 3: Militarily, do you think that your agreement with Iraq will lead to your getting military support and in what way?

Answer: The matter is clear. Our strength, with that of Iraq and other Arab states, will be one strength and one front. The benefit of this to us Arabs is very clear.

Question 4: That means that you can ask that Iraqi forces be stationed alongside Syrian forces on the frontline with Israel?

Answer: During our meeting, we formed a number of committees--including a military committee--made up of the defense ministers and chiefs of staff of the two countries. The committee has the power to redeploy the armed forces in the two countries--Syria and Iraq--in accordance with the defense requirement of Syria, Iraq and the rest of the Arab front.

Question 5: Israel has deduced that it is a hostile agreement against it and that it represents a danger to it. What do you say?

Answer: From this angle, there is nothing new. The whole Arab nation is one trench and Israel is in another trench. What is new is the work to reorganize more effectively. Israel and all the countries of the world know that Iraq is part of the Arab nation and Iraqi Armed Forces are part of the Arab armed forces. Naturally, Iraq should be directly concerned about any Arab battle against enemies.

Question 6: Do you think that Syria and Iraq, without the support of Egypt, can settle the matter militarily with Israel?

Answer: We are not in the process of settling the matter militarily. We are in the process of reorganizing our defense situation so as to be able to efficiently defend ourselves against any new agression.

Question 7: Therefore, your agreement with Iraq is a defensive pact and not an offensive one?

Answer: We Arabs have been victims. Our territory has been usurped and a part of our people has been expelled from their homeland. We are reorganizing our affairs to defend ourselves against those aggressions.

Question 8: Do you believe, Mr President, that Israel's future must be, or can be, decided now by military means?

Answer: This is not a matter for discussion now. We are not discussing the settling of the Arab-Israeli conflict by military means at the present stage. We seek the ideal way by which we can face Israeli aggression and Israel's repeated attacks on our Arab territory. In this respect, the agreement between Syria and Iraq is a basic thing. It enables us to insure the necessary and essential requirements to defend ourselves against Israeli aggressions.

Question 9: An Arab summit conference will be held in Baghdad Thursday. Do you believe that Egypt can participate in this conference. Is it suitable, in your opinion, for Egypt to participate in the conference?

Answer: The Egyptian regime has forced Egypt out of the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict, although only temporarily. Therefore, Egypt, represented by the current regime, is not invited to attend the Baghdad conference.

Question 10: Do you believe that such a conference will produce anything new and specific other than verbal condemnations of Egypt, especially as several similar conferences have been held in the past?

Answer: Nobody in the world expects us to meet in order only to issue verbal condemnations of the behavior of the Egyptian regime. We are meeting to discuss the best ways to regain our rights and defend ourselves efficiently. That is what we expect from the conference. We are in danger. Therefore, we are meeting to discuss how to cope with that danger.

Question 11: Mr President, Anwar as-Sadat and Menahem Begin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. What is your opinion of the great honor bestowed on them?

Answer: I believe such a bestowal does no credit to the prize, at least in our Arab region and many countries of the world. I don't think many people in the world think As-Sadat and and Begin deserve the peace prize, because peace has not been achieved and they have not helped achieve it. What has happened is that the peace process has been hampered rather than pushed forward.

Question 12: There has been a change in world public opinion since As-Sadat's initiative in visiting Jerusalem. World public opinion is grateful to As-Sadat and thinks that what As-Sadat did was a great development opening new possibilities for peace. That is the world's interpretation of the visit. If As-Sadat succeeded in Washington in regaining all occupied Egyptian territory, would you consider that a success?

Answer: Separate agreements are one thing and peace is something else. What As-Sadat has done could lead to a separate agreement, as was the case at Camp David, but it would not lead to peace. The ones holding the talks are not the only ones concerned. They are only some of those concerned. Peace can only be achieved as a result of a comprehensive solution acceptable to all parties without exception. You have heard that a separate agreement is to be signed within days. Yet, the state of war still exists in the region. What As-Sadat has done has only further complicated the matter and has not eased the peace process.

It is noteworthy that what As-Sadat did is similar in some ways to what Petain did in France. You in France tried Petain. On the other hand, we in the Arab world, think that what Petain did was completely different and more responsible than what As-Sadat has done to the Arabs.

Question 13: Let us suppose that As-Sadat succeeds, with U.S. help, in obtaining from Israel a real, autonomous entity for the Palestinians in the West Bank, through the election of Arab representatives. Would that change your attitude?

Answer: That is an Israeli demand, not an Arab demand. As-Sadat's insistence on the matter means he insists on giving Israel what it wants in return for a certain area he will regain in Sinai. The Arabs and the Palestinians reject such autonomy and consider it an Israeli demand, not an Arab or Palestinian demand.

Question 14: That means that the real, internal autonomy, which would be put into effect, does not constitute progress in your opinion?

Answer: We consider it another victory for Israel, because it forced one of the Arab sides to approve a solution which we consider as basically contrary to Arab ambitions and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The Palestinian Arab people are demanding a homeland, a national identity, not an autonomy within the framework of another state, especially when the state is Israel, which occupied their land and expels them from their own homeland.

Question 15: In other words, you consider the internal autonomy in the West Bank a merger within the State of Israel and not the creation of a Palestinian homeland.

Answer: That is what is being proposed. That is what self-independence means. It means a canton within Israel. It means that the Palestinian people and the Palestinian homeland remain a part of greater Israel. Nobody can imagine that those are the aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people.

Question 16: You think, Mr President, that As-Sadat is making one concession after another and is proceeding from one failure to another in this diplomatic phase. But there are few people in the world or in Egypt who think that As-Sadat's authority in his own country is in danger. What do you think?

Answer: I do not agree with you that few people believe that, whether in Egypt or the international sphere. I say that the overwhelming majority believe that. The overwhelming majority says that As-Sadat was wrong and that he abandoned Egypt's Arab and international roles and also a greater part of Egypt's sovereignty. As-Sadat was also not loyal to Arab rights and the Arab nation, and Egypt is part of the Arab homeland.

Question 17: A year ago, before As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem, you received the Egyptian president and discussed the trip with him. You presented arguments to persuade him to give up the trip. Now, a year later, do you think that your previous arguments were more correct and sound?

Answer: Yes. They have proved their strength with the passage of time. They have proved that he was grossly mistaken. I stressed to As-Sadat that his trip to Jerusalem would not push the peace process forward but hamper it. I told him that he would destroy the peace process. And now we see what has happened.

The whole world wanted an international peace conference and supported such a conference. The conference was about to take place with participation of all parties concerned. The conference, to be held under the aegis of the United Nations, with the assistance of the two superpowers, could have provided just bases for just peace. But now we see how the issue was split. As-Sadat followed one course and the others followed another and so the equation was changed. This calls for a new course different from the previous one.

Question 18: During his talks here with you a year ago, As-Sadat said that that was his policy and that was what he was going to do. A year later, is As-Sadat following the same line or have there been any unforeseen developments?

Answer: I cannot say that he placed before me convincing arguments justifying his Jerusalem trip. All he gave me was a resume of the circumstances which led him to think about making the trip to Jerusalem. He said that he would go to Jerusalem to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque and then go to the Knesset to speak his opinion. He expected matters not to be difficult regarding Egyptian and Syrian territories, but only as far as Palestinian rights. It was more of a resume than a process of analysis and justification. Therefore, I did not hear anything that convinced me of the usefulness or importance of his going to Jerusalem. On the contrary, I saw all the negative results of such a trip and I mentioned them to him.

Question 19: Should Egypt now conclude a peace treaty with Israel, Syria would be the main frontline state. Please tell French viewers in simple words whether you, in turn, would join the talks. Is there any condition other than your desire to regain the Golan and to insure the acknowledgement of the Palestinians' right to a homeland, or is there something else?

Answer: We have no intention of participating in the talks. We consider them as contrary to the UN resolutions, which laid down the bases for peace and the formula which will establish those bases. The formula called for a peace conference under the aegis of the United Nations and the co-chairmanship of the two superpowers and the participation of all parties. That is the formula specified by the UN resolutions. The resolutions called for complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and the acknowledgement of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. That is the substance and the specific form of the UN resolutions.

Has what happened been in conformity with the substance and form of these resolutions? Certainly not. What happened at Camp David and resulted therefrom, conflicts in substance and form with the aims and provisions of the United Nations.

Question 20: For your part, therefore, you will continue to adhere to the course set by the United Nations and to accept, within this framework, the negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations and the recognition of the principle of the existence of Israel.

Answer: We Arabs want peace. Our guideline in the efforts for peace is the UN resolutions, the resolutions which express the conscience of the whole world.

Question 21: Iraq as well?

Answer: I say the Arabs. That question should be addressed to Iraq. But I can assert that throughout their history Arabs have been advocates of peace. They have never been advocates of war. The call for self-defense is one thing and the call for war is something else.

But I would also like to add that what has happened and is happening now is completely contrary to the UN resolutions. We want all the territories occupied in 1967. We also want the complete rights of the Palestinian Arab people. We consider those the bases for just peace in the region. But to be honest, the circumstances for achieving that peace do not exist now. They were destroyed by As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem and the meetings which followed at Camp David and the results of Camp David. The separate peace to be signed in the next few days, as we hear, will be a capitulatory peace between Egypt and Israel.

Question 22: But you do not want to accept the idea that before finally accepting Arab demands positively, Israel has to defend its existence and the conditions of its existence in this region.

Answer: If we are to go back in history we will find that Israel was always the aggressor, not the Arabs. Since its establishment, Israel has been occupying new Arab territory and expelling more Palestinians.

Question 23: Is this a rewriting of history? Is not Israel's existence in this region an established fact in this region?

Answer: What is?

Question 24: Its existence, which is not recognized so far by most of the Arab states, if we except Egypt?

Answer: It is that existence which is an aggression upon us. Is what is attacking us a phantom or real? Israel attacks us; therefore, it exists, but it is an aggressive existence.

Question 25: Let us now turn to another topic of special concern to the French: It is world concern about developments in Lebanon in the past few weeks. The first question, which is most simple and persistent here, is: Do you believe there is any chance that the current cease-fire will hold.

Answer: We hope so. We sent our forces to Lebanon at the request of Lebanese citizens, especially Christians, and especially those who from time to time now attack the Arab Deterrent Forces. We also sent our forces to Lebanon at the request of legitimate authority in Lebanon and with the approval, blessing and decision of Arab states. When the Arab states met, we expressed the wish that the larger part of those forces would be contributed by others. We agreed on the Arab Deterrent Forces the way they are constituted now. I stressed during the Arab summit conference in Cairo that we in Syria had no intention of contributing the majority of the deterrent forces. We preferred that the Syrians make up the minority of the forces. We were not able to achieve that. Thus, Syrian forces remained the majority of the deterrent forces. We went to Lebanon to establish security. We have endured material, financial, human and other sacrifices for its sake.

Question 26: And how would you accept, and hope for, the withdrawal of a part of the Syrian forces and their replacement by other Arab forces?

Answer: Even in the last few days, and during my meeting with President Sarkis, we agreed--as a matter of fact I took the initiative and requested--that he ask other Arab states he visited to send Arab forces to Lebanon. I still hope that any other Arab forces will replace the Syrian forces, if that is the problem. But, of course, that is not the problem.

Question 27: When President Sarkis was here a few days ago, did he request the withdrawal of Syrian forces?

Answer: Of course not. He did not request that. We want to leave Lebanon as soon as possible because we are in great need of those forces which we placed in Lebanon. As you know, we are in a state of war with Israel. The forces in Lebanon are needed for our Israeli front more than in Lebanon. In Lebanon, they are doing police work. We want them to come here and take their place in defending Syria and the Arab homeland on the frontline with Israel.

Question 28: When will that take place, as you wish it?

Answer: We are not the ones to decide that. The question depends on developments in Lebanon and the desire of Lebanese. If we were to hold a referendum in Lebanon, about at least 90 per cent of Lebanese would request that the forces remain in Lebanon. There are also the legitimate institutions--the Chamber of Deputies, the government and the president of the republic. Any time they ask us to leave Lebanon, we will do so and thank them.

Question 29: You know that the Lebanese president and government are in no position to make such a request. What would happen if Syrians left Lebanon?

Answer: If the government is not asking us to leave, it is because it knows that those forces are the only means in its hand to help establish security. Most likely, the government expects the resumption of the civil war as soon as the forces leave Lebanon.

Question 30: President Sarkis announced a plan to implement the cease-fire. The main point in the plan if implemented is disarming the Palestinians and Christian militias. But nobody believes that that is possible. Do you think it can be done without a resumption of fighting?

Answer: President Sarkis and the Lebanese Government must have considered every possibility when they discussed the plan. I do not know exactly the progress of the discussions which led to the approval of this plan, but the collection of arms from all Lebanese sides is basic for the final establishment of security in Lebanon.

Question 31: But is it possible to do that without a resumption of fighting?

Answer: I do not imagine that those destroying security day after day want to give up their arms. But the government can, if it wants, use the power in its hand to collect arms. What I mean is that if the legitimate government decided to collect arms, the Arab Deterrent Forces could do that, but not without certain military operations, I think.

Question 32: It outwardly seems easy to collect arms from the Islamic, progressive and Palestinian forces, and difficult to do so from the Christian militias. Is it essential for the Arab Deterrent Forces to help the Lebanese Government collect arms from the militias, especially Sham'un's militias?

Answer: What means are available to the Lebanese Government to carry out such a task other than the Arab Deterrent Forces? It has no other means.

Question 33: When the Chritian residential areas in Lebanon were bombarded during the past few weeks, we often wondered why Syria did not understand the sufferings of the Christians.

Answer: Quite the contrary. When the civil war broke out in Lebanon, Syria received 1 million Lebanese refugees, including Moslems and Christians. We treated them all equally. We gave every possible help to everyone equally. We took immediate steps to establish security in Lebanon. At that time, it meant assistance to Lebanese citizens, especially Christians. Syria was attacked then in some French papers on the claim that it was striking at Lebanese nationalists and Moslems in favor of Christians. We were not striking at one side in favor of another. We were clashing with this or that side on the basis of its position on the question of security. We want security for everyone, as this will be a service to everyone. The 1976 incidents indicate that we sympathized with both Christians and Moslems and that we sympathized with both Lebanese and Palestinians. The recent bombardment was not as described by certain news media. It was the militias which invited such fighting inside the city, because both the militias and the deterrent forces are stationed in residential areas.

Question 34: Mr President, during the past weeks we have been very much upset and affected in France when the shelling of the Christian residential areas in Beirut was unexpectedly intensified. We asked: What is the meaning of this and what is the price of this intensified violence?

Answer: The problem is that the Arab Deterrent Forces are stationed in the heart of residential areas in accordance with a previous distribution made by the legitimate authority. Likewise, the militas are stationed in residential areas. The fighting is, therefore, taking place inside residential areas. As far as I know, the forces were careful not to harm others than fighters. Nevertheless, the matter, as I see it, cannot be avoided. That is because fighting was raging in buildings. I know the militias used to come to buildings and some hospital and schools sometimes and start shooting. The deterrent forces were forced to reply. At any rate, the forces were in a self-defense posture. That is the least the deterrent forces can do in self-defense.

Question 35: Why was it so violent? Why was the shelling so violent though. Apparently, it is impossible to achieve results more positive than before. In other words, on the military level, you have not benefited so much. Rather, the sufferings of civilians have been intensified.

Answer: you say that we are benefiting. We in Syria are in all cases losers. That is because we sacrifice in Lebanon financially and militarily. We also suffer human losses for the sake of establishing security in Lebanon. If you meant that we did not benefit in the sense that we are two sides facing each other and our forces did not advance, from this angle, our forces are under the instruction of legitimate authority. Had legitimate authority asked the forces to advance and to mop up the areas, the forces would have advanced and mopped up the areas regardless of the losses. However, the deterrent forces did not receive orders to advance. At any rate, legitimate authority did not tell the forces not to defend themselves, because that is out of the question. Had the forces failed to reply to the fire, the militias would have been inside the forces' positions. No army can take that upon itself.

If the French Army were attacked in their barracks by parties or groups or armed gangs, would the French Army attack the armed gangs or would it hide behind the walls. Certainly, the French Army would strike to defend itself.

Question 36: Many people believe that the Syrian forces, even if they entered Lebanon at the request of Lebanese, are forces occupying foreign land. They are, therefore, in a more difficult situation. The French, the Europeans and Westerners in general were greatly affected by the photographs. They believed that Christian civilians, including women and children, were vehemently punished by intensified shelling which was not compatible with the degree of fighting at that time. Do you think that if fighting erupts anew, you will hesitate before carrying out shelling?

Answer: If the Arab Deterrent Forces, whether they are made up of Syrian or Saudi Arabian forces or others are in Lebanon to receive blows and are incapable of doing anything, why are they in Lebanon? Why are they called deterrent forces? They are not called peace-keeping forces or truce forces or observation forces or other names. They are called Arab Deterrent Forces. Their task is to deter troublemakers and those playing havoc with security. The Lebanese insisted on giving the forces that name. The Christian side, particularly the militias' leaders now confronting the deterrent forces, also insisted on giving them that name. That is because there were previous experiences by peace-keeping forces without results. Therefore, a decision was made to have deterrent forces in order to carry out their role in full.

As I said, the manner in which these forces are used depends on the legitimate authorities. It is not we in Syria who make the decisions and we are not a party. Had we been the deciding factor, we would certainly have made a different decision and ended the security problem regardless of the results. But the decision is not ours. This is one thing and there is another thing I want to mention: Your indication that the French and Western people felt sorry for what happened to Christians in Lebanon. I can say that you cannot feel as sorry as we do, because those Christians are part of our Arab nation. They are real Arabs and not French or British or Germans. When they suffer, we ourselves feel the material effect and not the French or the European people. When the civil war erupted, Syria received some 1 million refugees, Moslems and Christians. Certainly, France did not receive so many refugees. At any rate, if France did receive some, it received only the rich people who can live anywhere.

Question 37: France did not have the right of choice. But it received those who came to it.

Answer: Of course, of course. But those who went to France were the ones who could. This is not because there is a relationship between them and France. Some went to France and others went to England and Cyprus. That was according to their material capabilities and not according to sentimental ties. However, the great majority of refugees came to Syria and found sympathy, care and attention. They were received in homes here. I do not believe that in France they were received in citizens' homes. I believe that Lebanese who went to France lived with their own resources, but those who came to Syria lived with their own resources in addition to the resources of family, friends and Syrian citizens. I do not believe that religious ties at this historical stage can motivate the people in Europe and the world. I believe that such matters managed to motivate people in the past. But at this stage, no. They are Christians, but they are part of our nation. We and the Christians do form one family and one tribe. But the Christians and the French people are not one family and one nation. In other words, what did Europe give the Christians during the 2-year civil war? Europe gave them advice and sentiments. At any rate, Europe could not have given them more than this.

Question 38: Europe did not send arms, commandos and soldiers. This matter does not concern it, and Europe can only give advice on the diplomatic level.

Answer: They do not want to send troops because the matter has to do with interests. France's interests dictate that it should not send troops, whereas the interests of the Arabs and Syria are part of Arab interests. Owing to its pan-Arab aspirations and its pan-Arab and sacred ties with the Lebanese people, Syrian was motivated to sacrifice its private interests and send troops to Lebanon. Therefore, the one to make sacrifices for the Lebanese--Christians and Moslems--should be an Arab state, and Syria in particular. That is because geographically Syria is the closest Arab country. But the others cannot make such sacrifios for Lebanon.

Question 39: Don't you believe, Mr President that the Lebanese problem could lead to emigration of the rest of the Christians now residing in Lebanon?

Answer: Where would they go?

Question 40: Do you fear that the deteriorating current situation in Lebanon would motivate the Christians to live in exile?

Answer: Absolutely not. That is because those fighting and attacking the deterrent forces do not represent the Christians. If Christians had been given arms, they would have violently attacked the militias attacking the deterrent forces. You should not forget that the most prominent Christian leader, the spiritual and practical father of the Lebanese Front, which claims that it represents the Christians, is former President Sulayman Franjiyah. You see what they did to him because he merely demanded the establishment of Lebanese authority and that the militias should perform their tasks as Lebanese citizens.

You can go to him in the north and ask him. You can go to the Christians in the north and ask them. You can go to the Christians in Al-Biqa' and ask them. You can go to the Christians in other areas and ask them, and you can even go to certain Maronites in the eastern part of beirut, the stronghold of these militias. If you can see them and if they can talk freely, they will tell you that if they had been given arms, they would have fought the militias.

Question 41: Do you accept what certain Lebanese are demanding, namely, the need to station UN representatives alongside Arab forces as observers supervising the course of events? In other words, do you approve the idea?

Answer: That matter is related to Lebanese themselves. I want to withdraw my troops from Lebanon, but the matter concerns Lebanese. The decision is purely a Lebanese one, not a Syrian decision.

Question 42: Does Syria represent the only guarantee to peace and order in Lebanon during the next few months?

Answer: You in France have experience. The United Nations also has experience. There are UN troops in southern Lebanon. Nonetheless, they have been attacked by the militias attacking the deterrent forces. French soldiers were hit and wounded by those militias. Yesterday I read that two soldiers--I cannot recall their nationality--were also (?hit) by the militias. One of the soldiers was stabbed with a dagger. If UN troops failed to establish security in southern Lebanon and put an end to the militias, how do you expect observers in Beirut to settle the security problem in Lebanon? However, as I said, this is a Lebanese problem.

Question 43: Some moderate Lebanese Christians--other than Phalangists--such as Raymond Iddih, believe that your objective is that Syria should be the defender of Lebanon.

Answer: That depends on Lebanese will. We do not have to elaborate on that subject. As I said, there are legitimate institutions in Lebanon that can talk. There are also parties in Lebanon and real forces in Lebanon that can talk. The legitimate institutions--the Chamber of Deputies, the Lebanese Government, the president of the republic--can at any time meet and can say, "we do not need Syria's help." All of them know that we seek Lebanon's safety and independence. We seek a strong state in Lebanon that can impose itself and security.

Question 44: Is that possible?

Answer: I believe it is possible. But, as I said, daily action and decisions depend on the authorities. We are not an authority in Lebanon. We are neither exercising tactics nor making daily decisions in Lebanon.

Question 45: Your adversaries say that Damascus is the capital of Lebanon and that you dream of achieving greater Syria. What is your answer?

Answer: We are ambitious to achieve one Arab state. It is not only our hope in Syria. It is is our hope in Syria, in Lebanon, Jordan, the Arab Maghreb and all the Arab east. All Arab national parties advocate Arab unity. That is an objective. Perhaps, and I say perhaps, the French citizen and the European citizen in general cannot assess the feelings of the Arab citizen in that respect. That is because France is now integrated. Suppose France were divided into small states. Would you as French struggle for the sake of its unity? When you struggle for the sake of France's unity, can we say that you are expansionists and aggressive and other things. Arab unity and our aspirations for it are one thing, and what we are doing now to establish security in Lebanon for the sake of Lebanon is something else. Arab unity cannot be imposed by force. That unity is achieved by the will of peoples. When the Lebanese people say, "We want unity with Syria, with Jordan, with Egypt or with any Arab country," we will be very happy and pleased. The matter now is different. There is a civil war in Lebanon and we want to put an end to it.

Question 46: Do you approve a possible peace mission by Pope John Paul II to Lebanon?

Answer: I believe that I have no right to welcome or not to welcome a papal visit to Lebanon. I could have offered my opinion had the matter related to Syria. The matter is, however, related to Lebanon; both the Lebanese people and legitimate institutions.

Question 47: Suppose President Sarkis seeks your advice?

Answer: I am ready to welcome the pope in Syria, but in Lebanon President Sarkis can say whatever he likes to say. I will tell President Sarkis that that is his problem and not our problem. Then why should we say no to the pope's visit?

Question 48: Do you recognize the pope's moral power?

Answer: On whom and where?

Question 49: The pope's moral power on the Christians and his moral power as a peace force?

Answer: Nobody doubts the pope's moral power in the world. Everybody respects the pope. Those who respect the pope do not wish him to intervene in world events, unless positive results are guaranteed.

Question 50: A last point about Lebanon and Beirut. Do you believe that armed Palestinians in Lebanon will heed the orders and instructions of the Syrians and President Sarkis?

Answer: The Palestinians in Lebanon have affirmed on many occasions that they are prepared to implement existing agreements between the Palestinians and legitimate Lebanese authorities. That is what they are required to do and that is what we ask them to do. That is also what the Arab countries and Lebanese authorities want them to do.

Question 51: They might not do this?

Answer: How we could presume this at a time when they affirm that they are prepared to implement the agreements?

Question 52: Mr President, there is no doubt that France has a role in the Near East and above all in Lebanon. How would you (?judge) what was written in Paris concerning the Lebanese crisis? In other words, how do you judge the official French position and France's role and behavior?

Answer: We are satisfied with the official French position. There are constant contacts between President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and myself concerning this subject. There has been correspondence in more than one channel, such as persons who come over here or persons who go from here to Paris and also through diplomatic channels. The statement by French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud is worth noting here. I believe that he was sincere and loyal to his duty as a French citizen assuming the responsibilities of the French foreign minister, particularly when he placed facts before the French people. He was sincere to French citizens because he placed facts before them. Knowing the facts is the most important matter as far as the French citizen is concerned. His statement of a sound idea about Lebanese events served the security situation in Lebanon. This is a useful matter that should be known by French citizens. I believe that De Guiringaud deserves thanks, particularly from those who criticized him in France. That is because he said the truth as it is. I think that French authorities are aware of the real situation in Lebanon. French authorities are also aware of the fact that we in Syria have been making sacrifices since 1976, and that we are making sacrifices now for the sake of establishing security in Lebanon without self-interest, but only within the framework of joint interest between Lebanon and ourselves and within the framework of joint Arab interest in the area.

Question 53: How do you judge France's position toward the talks between Egypt and Israel?

Answer: I believe that France well realizes that peace in the area cannot be achieved unless there is a comprehensive solution with all parties participating, a solution based on justice and according to which all Arab territories occupied in 1967 are restored and all national rights of the Palestinian people are recognized.

Question 54: How do you see France and President Valery Giscard d'Estaing influencing the Middle East situation during the next few months?

Answer: I believe that President Giscard and the French Government can greatly influence and play an important role during this stage concerning the Middle East situation as a whole. That is what I confirmed during my last meeting with President Giscard and during periodic correspondence between us.

Question 55: How do you assess the effects of the two superpowers on what is taking place in the Middle East?

Answer: The Soviet Union calls for a comprehensive solution based on justice with all parties participating. The United States is exercising, as you see, a partial and separate deal while talking about a comprehensive solution. It is therefore natural and logical to view the Soviet Union's stand as a more realistic and just stand. That is, the call for a comprehensive solution with the participation of all parties under the aegis of the United Nations.

Question 56: Do you believe that President Carter is intervening more than he should in what is taking place now and as we have seen in Camp David?

Answer: As Arabs, we must hold the Arab side responsible because it created what we may call the big problem. However, we are not pleased with U.S. encouragement of Israel and Egypt to continue on their path. Here I want to say that, despite the support of certain European countries for all that is taking place, we know at the same time that some of these countries, and perhaps the majority--and I do not want to give names here--wish that there were another road to lead to a comprehensive solution. I would like to point out here our good relations with France and my personal relations with President Giscard. He is a respectable statesman for whom I harbor great respect and esteem.

Question 57: In your reconciliation with Iraq, you have shown that the head of state can forget his personal and historical enmities and surpass it for the sake of his country. Do you believe that this can happen with the Israeli people?

Answer: No. The matter there is completely different. We and Iraq are one people and one nation. We say this in Syria and they say that in Iraq. If we sometimes differ--regardless of the form and essence of the difference--we cannot reach the level of differences and enmity existing between Israel and ourselves or between any Arab state and Israel. The comparison here is not practical. Naturally, we are one nation and we try to unify that nation with or without the existence of Israel. It is a completely different matter between Israel and ourselves.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BAGHDAD MEETING

JN010735Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that the Arab foreign ministers have collectively asserted that the Arab nation is more powerful than all its enemies. He added that nobody can influence the course of history or wreck the nation's accomplishments and wipe it out.

In an interview with Iraqi TV last night, Khaddam said that he is optimistic about all the discussions that have been held so far at the Arab foreign ministers conference. He said: I am confident that the Arab foreign ministers conference will have positive results in the service of our just struggle against the Zionist presence, imperialism and all hostile forces. He said that the conference will adopt practical, serious and radical resolutions against the Camp David policy and As-Sadat's course--the course that took Egypt out of the Arab fold and its normal position.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: We in Syria believe that the forthcoming Arab summit conference must define the phased objective in light of resolutions adopted by previous summits, particularly those adopted by the Algiers and Rabat summits; must concentrate on those resolutions; must assert collective Arab responsibility and the unity of Arab action and must stress that no Arab country has the right to relinquish or make decisions dealing with common issues, particularly because our current pan-Arab issues cannot be guaranteed except by providing for and insuring pan-Arab safety.

The conference must discuss ways and means to fill the vacancy resulting from Egypt's departure from the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict and must restore the military balance between our nation and the Israeli enemy, between the Syrian front and the Israeli enemy and between Jordan and the Palestinian people on the one hand and Israel on the other.

The conference must adopt necessary measures to confront the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli peace and their impact on the Arab nation's interests and objectives.

Khaddam added: I believe that Arab leaders are well aware of the fact that maintaining silence over such crimes cannot be justified by history. Khaddam said: I pointed out to the foreign ministers that maintaining silence over minor sins is a crime. The crime, however, has already been committed and is being seriously executed, Khaddam concluded.

TISHRIN SEES U.S.-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES AS MANEUVERS

JN3109345Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Oct 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Goal in Criticizing the Intensification of Settlements" the newspaper TISHRIN clearly shows that the secret ploys of the U.S.-Zionist game consist of deluding world public opinion into thinking that there are real differences between Washington and the Zionist entity. All this is aimed at dragging the Egyptian regime into offering more concessions so the Zionists can achieve thier dreams of isolating the largest Arab country from the Arab-Zionist struggle arena and depict the U.S. position to Arab public opinion in the best possible light.

TISHRIN says that the same game played at Camp David concerning the existence of differences between the parties to the U.S. capitulatory settlement is currently being repeated at the Washington talks. The differences this time are between President Carter and Begin, especially after President Carter asked President as-Sadat not to recall the head of his negotiating delegation in the wake of Dayan and Weizman's return from Israel and following Begin's decision to intensify settlements in the West Bank and weaken the link between the proposed bilateral agreement and the issue of the West Bank and Gaza.

Western circles describe those differences as just a small war of words and expect everything to be solved during Begin's visit to Washington at the end of this week, when it would be possible to agree on a compromise solution. However, one wonders about the seriousness of those differences, which take the form of play acting, added to the theatrical piece being implemented in stages in accordance with the U.S. operational concept of peddling the settlement conspiracy. The answer, to be found in the fabrication of U.S.-Israeli differences, refutes the existence of any differences unless they serve a definite U.S. goal.

Continuing its commentary on the presumed differences between the U.S. and Zionist entity, TISHRIN points out the goals behind propagating such rumors. TISHRIN says that the presumed U.S.-Zionist differences aim at depicting the U.S. administration in the next stage as the only power capable of forcing Israel to retreat on all the intransigent decisions it may take. Therefore, President Carter's success in having Begin give up his decision to intensify settlements--more exactly to amend Begin's position on such a decision--will prepare the ground for the U.S. settlement operation to organize the Palestinian situation in the West Bank and Gaza strip within the framework of peddling the self-rule conspiracy.

The U.S. administration believes that by making Begin amend the decision to intensify settlements, it will appear sympathetic to the Palestinians. That will create for the United States a suitable atmosphere in which to play the Palestinian card--at least in relation to those the U.S. administration terms as moderates, with whom Saunders was active during his visit to Israel--after the continued contacts the U.S. Embassy in Israel carried out to provide an alternative to the PLO for the Palestinians who sympathize with As-Sadat's initiative and have shown their readiness to enter the U.S. settlement game.

The paper continues: After all that, it is no coincidence that President Carter considers the essence of his differences with Begin to be based on the issue of settlements in the West Bank and not on the question of linkage between the bilateral agreement and the West Bank. The reason for this is that the draft bilateral peace agreement between Israel and the Egyptian regime has been agreed upon. Also, the Egyptian prime minister stated if the head of the Egyptian negotiating delegation is summoned, it will be to discuss technical issues, that there are no fundamental differences in the Blair House negotiations.

After pointing out the goal of the U.S. administration in using this new tactic, the paper concludes that the presumed U.S.-Israeli differences are just a maneuver aiming at placing the Palestinian card in U.S. hands after it has played the As-Sadat card and led him to a bilateral agreement with Israel.

TISHRIN Outlines Summit Objectives

JN0108052 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Nov 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Big Question Before the Baghdad Summit," TISHRIN comments: The big question before the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, a fact before all Arabs, is: Who is going to determine the Arabs' fate, ideas, land, rights, future and resources? Will it be imperialism and Zionism or the Arabs themsleves? The answer will define the positions and will unveil the nature of trends.

President Anwar as-Sadat answered that question frankly when he said that the United States holds 99 percent of the cards in the game, meaning that it is the United States that should determine the Arabs' fate, homeland, cause and future. As a result, As-Sadat's regime deviated from the Arab fold, moved into the U.S. sphere of subservience and allied with Israel against all Arabs.

TISHRIN adds: The Arab masses desparately want to be the masters of their fate and make their own decisions. They cannot accept--regardless of the sacrifices--any tutelage, subservience or slavery. Every Arab leader who has not disassociated himself from his people and nation and who wishes preserve his dignity and respect as well as his nation's honor and interests must resolutely assert that Arabs must be masters of their fate and must be the decision makers in their homeland.

Arabs, who have witnessed the collapse of imperialism and colonialism and the diminishing of the imperialist era during the last quarter of the 20th century, are strong--strong in natural resources, strong in their unity and strong with friends in the world. They also are capable--should they unite and cooperate--of defending their freedom and of determining their future.

TISHRIN concludes: The meeting of all Arab leaders in Baghdad clearly shows that Arabs will never place their fate in the hands of imperialism and Zionism as As-Sadat did.

ALGERIA

PARIS WEEKLY REPORTS BOUMEDIENE PARTIALLY PARALYZED

LD311411Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Oct 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] The diplomatic editor writes: AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI has learned from well-informed sources in Paris that French official circles are watching "with interest and concern" developments of the situation in Algeria following reports received by French officials from Moscow last Tuesday regarding President Houari Boumediene's state of health. The sources said Soviet doctors are exerting "their maximum efforts" to treat the Algerian president for a partial paralysis he has suffered as a result of a blockage in one of his kidneys and that Soviet officials, headed by Leonid Brezhnev, are following the Algerian president's condition with special interest.

The sources said that President Boumediene has been in the Soviet Union since the first half of October and that the summoning of Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika directly from New York to Moscow was in connection with Boumediene's health. Bouteflika is a leading figure in the Algerian regime whom observers believe will play a big role in the future.

The sources also said that a number of Arab officials had contacted Moscow in order to be reassured about Boumediene's health. The sources added that, in light of information received from Moscow, three countries are highly interested in the developments of the situation in Algeria--the United States, France and the Soviet Union, each of which has its own supporters in Algeria. During the past years Boumediene has been careful to maintain a close balance in relations with those countries, whether in the political, economic or military fields. Such a balance might be disturbed if major developments occur.

The watchword in Paris, Washington and Moscow on Wednesday was: "Watch the situation in Algeria."

ASH-SHA'B WARNS AGAINST TRAITORS AT BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

LD301214Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers, 30 October--Writing editorially in its "People's Opinion" column under the headline "The Required Stand," the newspaper ASH-SHA'B today comments on the first step being taken on the road to the Arab summit conference, namely, today's meeting in Baghdad of the Arab foreign ministers.

The newspaper writes that despite the clarity of the framework, objectives and motives, to counter the Zionist-imperialist plot represented by the Camp David agreement and its consequences and to mobilize all Arab resources and capabilities for the cause of liberation, there are overt attempts being made to create confusion and mix matters anew in order to weaken the Arab position and prevent the adoption of responsible pan-Arab resolutions condemning As-Sadat's initiative from start to finish.

The paper adds: We have begun to hear voices that ostensibly call for bolstering solidarity and preventing a further deepening of the rift in Arab ranks, while covertly they aim at consecrating the fait accompli and preparing the Arabs' minds to accept the new realities and their long and short term consequences, that is, to accept American-Zionist hegemony, the Zionist enemy's expansionist ambitions and the squandering of Arab rights in return for the illusion of American pressure--pressure that has failed to prevent Begin from continuing his Judaization policy.

True, the paper adds, the unity of ranks is a pan-Arab necessity and a basic weapon in the battle, because the enemy is a common one for all Arabs. But, it adds, to keep traitors and plotters against the Arab cause within out ranks under the pretext of preserving the unity of Arab ranks is no more than a call for accepting the consequences and outcome of the Camp David meetings.

The paper concludes: The required pan-Arab decision is one that goes beyond punishing As-Sadat's regime or taking revenge upon it. It is necessary to confront the Zionist-imperialist plot for which the Egyptian regime acts as a tool.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF

LD311154Y Tripoli JANA in English 0802 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 31 October JANA--The secretary-general of the General People's Congress Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received yesterday the Maltese prime minister Dr Dom Mintoff who arrived last Sunday on a visit to the Jamahiriya.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud also attended the meeting.

Mintoff Gives Parting Speech

LD010646Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Dom Mintoff, prime minister of Malta, took part this evening in the meeting at the [name indistinct] in Tripoli of the (?cultural) people's congress during its ordinary session [word indistinct]. Addressing the meeting, Mintoff saluted Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan Arab people and Arab Libyan-Maltese friendship. He then reviewed the historical relations which bind the two friendly peoples and explained that their language was one, referring to the historical factors and the conditions which were exploited by colonialism in tearing apart the unity of the Libyan Arab and Maltese peoples.

Referring to the development of friendly relations between the two peoples, he stressed that during his first visit to the Jamahiriyah in 1971 he had felt how much the Arab people of the Jamahiriyah were on the side of the struggle of the Maltese people against colonialism and foreign pacts.

He praised the courageous Libyan people's attitude which is on the side of the friendly Maltese people and he praised their commitment to give every type of political and economic aid so that the freedom and sovereignty of the Maltese people can be achieved. His speech was punctuated by warm applause and acclaims of Arab-Maltese friendship and affirmations for strengthening and continuing the relations in order to realize the well-being and prosperity of the two friendly peoples.

Dom Mintoff left Tripoli this evening.

CONGRESS CONDEMNS NOBEL AWARD TO AS-SADAT, BEGIN

LD311556Y Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 31 October, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress confirmed that there is no true justification for awarding the Nobel Prize to the defeated Egyptian president and the terrorist Begin unless it has been established that the prize has become an imperialist and world Zionist tool for rewarding their allies who carry out their schemes against the true interests of nations and against international peace and security.

In such a case we condemn this action and consider it as intended against our nation. We demand from all peace and freedom lovers object to it and reject it.

The secretariat announced, in a statement issued last Sunday and published yesterday in AL-FAJR AL-JADID newspaper, that awarding the 1978 Nobel Prize to As-Sadat and Begin put the true significance of this action into question.

The statement said that what had been undertaken by As-Sadat at the end of 1977 and his so-called peace initiative had not been considered by the Arab masses meeting at the Arab People's Congress which included all organizations, political parties, vocational syndicates in all Arab countries as well as official Arab regimes represented in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and foreign ministeries of many Arab countries, as a peace initiative but as a capitulatory action taken by an Arab ruler facing an enemy occupying an usurping Arab territories. When As-Sadat concluded this action by signing the Stable David accords, the Arab masses as well as all Egyptian political forces expressed their rejection of this action which completed the policy of capitulation. They called upon Arab kings and presidents to hold a new Arab summit in Baghdad to express the rejection of the two accords.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress indicated that several international organizations, in the foremost of whom is the World Peace Council have expressed their rejection of that policy and its effects as it does not achieve peace and security in the area, but increases the disturbances of issues; hence the threat of explosion of the situation in the Arab region and in the Middle East.

Neutral observers have agreed that the whole of this policy and its consequences contradicts U.N. resolutions

Concerning Menahem Begin, the world knows that he is the leader of the Zionist Irgun gang which carried out the most horrifying crimes in the history of the conflict in the area, characterized by Deir Yassin and Kafr Qasim massacres that had been condemned and are still being condemned by people of honor throughout the world.

The statement said that Begin was until recently an ill-reputed ghost within the Zionist entity itself. He was spurned by many places. Even after he had become prime minister of the Zionist gang, he was prohibited from entry to a Western country such as Britain because of being a terrorist.

This terrorist is still continuing his aggressive actions up till our present day, in order to usurp the lands of the Arab Palestinian people and eliminate the national trends in the occupied territories, as well as establishing Zionist settlements in these territories after the evacuation of the original Arab inhabitants--all these actions have been condemned by the U.N. and its organizations which also condemned Zionism as a form of racism.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress ended its statement by referring to the measure taken by terrorist Begin to transfer the seat of his government to Jerusalem, thus enhancing the Judaism of Jerusalem for which all international conferences of non-aligned Islamic states and African countries have taken resolutions to liberate it from Zionist occupation so that it would continue the noble human role it undertook throughout the ages.

PEOPLE'S COURT RULES CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS NULL, VOID

LD311230Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The All-Arab People's Court, sitting in its final extraordinary session, ruled that the two Stable David agreements, negotiated and signed by the accused Anwar as-Sadat, head of the Egyptian regime, and by the terrorist Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Israeli enemy, with the participation of Jimmy Carter, U.S. President, are null and void. The agreement has resulted in harm done to the Arab nation at large and the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples in particular. Also the two agreements conflict with the will of the Arab people and with Arab and international norms.

On the other hand the court postponed a ruling on the treason case against the accused and decided to add it to case No 1, submitted to the court in its extraordinary session under the heading: An Arab People.

At the beginning of the final session the general prosecutor read a telegram to the court from the association of lawyers of the PDRY denouncing the agreements signed by the defeated Egyptian president at Stable David. The ruling was pronounced on the basis that by signing the Stable David agreements the accused had abdicated Arab rights and dignity, abandoned Egyptian national territory to the Zionist enemy and limited the size of the Egyptian Armed Forces in Egypt. By signing the agreements he also reneged on all the Arab summit resolutions and international laws.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN II EXPLAINS AS-SADAT'S POSITION

LD312230Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Report on undated interview of Moroccan King Hassan II by Paris radio correspondent Edouard Sablier in Morocco--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Asked about the question of the peace negotiations going on between Egypt and Israel and the direction of the negotiations, his majesty the king replied that during his recent visit to Rabat, President as-Sadat explained to him that he had remained faithful to the Rabat summit by laying down what he called a framework of action with a place for all the negotiators.

So that that no separate peace would be concluded, he decided to negotiate on behalf of the others, if necessary. In view of this, we cannot say that there is a separate peace and that the negotiations are not about Sinai, or withdrawal from Sinai, about the Palestinian territories--Gaza and the West Bank. On those issues, As-Sadat will be firm; otherwise I shall be the first to tell him that the matter amounted to a separate peace.

The king added that he was convinced that President as-Sadat would not deal lightly with this matter and that if President al-Asad and the PLO do not join the negotiations, then he would negotiate on behalf of all.

Asked about the purpose of his forthcoming visit to the United States, His Majesty King Hassan replied that he will study with the American leaders certain geographical matters, as he will be taking with him to America a collection of maps of Africa, the Gulf and the Arab world and the Mediterranean. (?Should) I succeed in explaining my view of the maps to my friends the Americans, then I believe that my visit will be very useful, he said.

BOUCETTA STRESSES NEED FOR ARAB UNITY AT BAGHDAD

LD010036Y Rabat Domestic Service Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Report on the 31 October speech at the foreign minister's conference in Baghdad by M'hammed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation]

[Text] At today's session, M'hamed Boucetta delivered a speech. Here is a report from our correspondent:

M'hamed Boucetta thanked Iraq for its initiative and for its good organization, recalling in this connection that this is not strange for the people of Iraq, who were and will continue to be one of the Arab fortresses, who struggle for the preservation of Arab unity principles and who firmly stand against division and schisms.

The minister emphasized that Morocco firmly adhered to the resolutions of the seventh Arab summit conference held in Rabat in 1974. Boucetta said that this meeting should declare the need for a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and the commitment to the liberation of all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the liberation of the city of Jerusalem, thus achieving the Palestinian people's rights to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of their own state over their stolen land [words indistinct] Morocco considers it necessary to emerge from the conference with results aimed at uniting Arab ranks and not at splitting them and to show interest in laying down an acceptable, practical way by all to confront challenges, or trying to condemn it [words indistinct]

The minister pointed out that Morocco which [words indistinct] the blood of its sons in Sinai or on the Golan, was still prepared to make all sacrifices for the restoration of Arab rights and retrieval of occupied territories.

RABAT COMMENTS ON MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS

LD272209Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Oct 78 LD

["Behind the News" commentary]

[Text] Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania have recently exchanged visits and delegations almost on a regular basis. There is nothing strange about that Morocco and Mauritania are linked together by numerous bonds--common struggle, geographical proximity, unity of hopes and interests and joint role in the Arab, Islamic and African spheres.

Since Morocco recognized Mauritania as a fraternal state, it has been anxious to uphold and stress its sovereignty and to bolster and safeguard it whenever the need arose, particularly since they jointly decided to complete their territorial integrity and retrieve their Saharan regions.

The Saharan problem has been justly solved through negotiations which were crowned with the Madrid treaty of 14 November 1975, under which both fraternal countries regained their sovereignty over their national territory and the dossier was thus closed as far as they were concerned once and for all.

However, Mauritania is a sovereign--and fully sovereign--state. It has the right, if the tension brought about by Algeria and its lackeys in the area has harmed it, to exert all efforts to establish peace and put an end to the problems it suffers from because of this situation.

That does not disturb us at all. Indeed, Morocco is fully anxious to see peace established, particularly as the Mauritanian officials have consistently declared that they seek no peace in the absence of Morocco but with its full agreement.

For this reason, on its part, Morocco oepns all doors widely regarding the problem of tension between it and Algeria and accepts all mediations. Morocco is ready to accept all the results of the meetings and efforts of the African Elders Committee. All Morocco asks is to preserve its retrived soil, regained with the struggle of its sons, and to insure the security of its borders with fraternal Mauritania--borders which Morocco considers as a door through which it can continue to perform its African mission.

Hence whatever the brother Mauritanians' contacts may be, they will never disturb us at all, contrary to what is being disseminated by agencies, as long as they do not depart from the framework which his majesty the king delineated in his 20 August 1978 speech.

Mauritanian itself knows as well as we that its interests lie in preserving those principles. It fully realized that close cooperation and complete coordination between it and Morocco are alone the best guarantee for the strengthening of their steadfast stand in the face of those who expect further concessions from Morocco and Mauritania and who lie in wait to seize opportunities and exploit points of weakness to impose their conditions and establish their hegemony.

L'OPINION VIEWS POSSIBILITIES FOR BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

LD301800Y Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 30 Oct 78 LD

[From "press review"]

[Text] Rabat, 30 Oct (MAP)--"Baghdad--A Summit of Reconciliation, or of Further Division?" was the L'OPINION headline Monday on the Arab summit called in reaction to the Camp David accords.

The Istiqlal Party daily said the summit could go two ways: "The way of extremists pushing for a total condemnation of Egypt, or the way of the majority which seeks dialogue with Cairo as a means of closing Arab ranks."

"The Baghdad summit must elaborate an overall Arab strategy aimed at liberating all occupied territory and restoring the Palestinian homeland. Also, Arab leaders must undertake concrete measures to militarily back the confrontation states that assume the heavy responsibility of facing the Zionist aggressors," the Moroccan daily said.

SUDAN

TROOP REPLACEMENTS TO LEAVE FOR BEIRUT

LD311904Y Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD/EA

[Text] The first group of Sudanese troops which will replace the unit currently taking part in the Arab Deterrent Force in Lebanon will leave Khartoum tomorrow morning to Beirut. This month Sudan decided to extend the stay of the Sudanese troops in Beirut for a further 3-month period.

VISITING CHINESE MILITARY GROUP DISCUSSES COOPERATION

LD311938Y Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD/EA

[Text] The president of the Republic and supreme commander of the People's Armed Forces will receive the Chinese military delegation on Thursday at 1330 in his office in the General Armed Forces headquarters.

The chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces, Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, received at his office this morning the Chinese military delegation, led by the deputy chief of staff of the Chinese Army, H. Cheng-wen. During the meeting, they discussed strengthening military relations between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation arrived in Khartoum last night on a 10-day visit and was received by the chief of staff, Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, and his top aides.

Commenting on the visit, General Khalil said it was aimed at strengthening military relations between the two countries. He said the PRC has been keen, ever since President Numayri's state visit to China, to promote the efficiency of Sudan's armed forces.

The delegation will visit the Sudanese Navy, air defense units, as well as the Jazirat and Rahad schemes and the Port Sudan-Qadarif road.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON RECENT FIGHTING

LD310032Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Oct 78 LD

[Text] A Saharan Arab Democratic Republic Defense Ministry statement says that the Saharan People's Liberation Army [ALPS] carried out bold operations against the forces of aggression and occupation of the Rabat regime in the southeastern areas of Guelta Zemmur, [word indistinct] and Bir Mogrein.

On 27 October, Saharan forces carried out intensive shelling of the positions of the invading forces [words indistinct] using heavy artillery. The enemy forces sustained considerable losses--nine soldiers were killed and several others were wounded. On the same day, Saharan forces launched an intensive attack against royal invading forces trying to get to Guelta Zemmur through Bir Mogrein. As a result of this attack, the invading forces were forced to retreat leaving behind 19 dead and the wreckage of 8 vehicles. The statement added that ALPS carried out a similar operation on the same day, inflicting 14 killed and 20 wounded on the enemy, in addition to the destruction of 3 vehicles and 2 jeeps.

POLISARIO CLAIMS 50 MOROCCAN TROOPS KILLED IN BATTLES

TA311148Y Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Algiers, 31 Oct (AFP)--The Saharan liberation movement, POLISARIO said today it had killed about 50 Moroccan soldiers in different operations between Oct 27 and 30 in Morocco.

The POLISARIO statement said Moroccan military posts in five regions had been pounded by POLISARIO artillery. It added that one Moroccan soldier at the Tifariti barracks, one of the posts attacked, had joined the POLISARIO forces.

POLISARIO has been fighting Morocco and Mauritania since they partitioned the former Spanish Sahara under a tripartite agreement with Madrid in 1975.

Meanwhile, in Paris today, the association of natives of former Sahara under Spanish domination (AOSARIO), which supports the Moroccan and Mauritanian positions on the Western Sahara, asked the United Nations and the UN High Commission for Refugees to intervene on behalf of "Saharans detained in south Algeria."

The association said the Algerian regular armed forces had kidnapped Saharans who were being kept in disciplinary camps or by the military security and deprived of any freedom.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT ON SPANISH, SAUDI ROLES IN SAHARA

LD311235Y Madrid YA in Spanish 26 Oct 78 p 10 LD

[Jose V. Colchero interview in Jidda with Mauritanian President Ould Saleck: "Spain's Role Is Essential for Resolving Saharan Problem"--date not specified]

[Text] [Question] President Ould Saleck, is there a diplomatic initiative underway within the Arab world to seek a solution to the West Sahara problem? Do your visits to Libyan President al-Qadhdhafi and Saudi Regent Fahd form part of it?

[Answer] Yes, I am now ending my visit to Saudi Arabia after spending a few days in Libya within the framework of the widespread diplomatic initiative, whose aim, as you say, is to seek a solution to the Sahara problem. In fact the purpose of the visits has been to answer the friendly invitations which I received from the leaders of Libya and Saudi Arabia, but we have, of course, examined the Sahara issue in the course of them. World public opinion is engrossed in the issue. We are seeking a solution, and Mauritania was the first country to take a step forward in laying down a basic platform for that search.

[Question] You held contacts with the POLISARIO which have served to establish a lengthy truce, but peace has not been achieved. Do you consider the contacts with the POLISARIO useful? Will you continue them in the future?

[Answer] I believe that I was the first--very soon after becoming president of Mauritania on 10 July--to undertake contacts with the POLISARIO in order to seek with it--as a party involved in the issue--exactly how to open up a path leading us to real peace. Of course, we will continue those contacts, not only in order to put an end to the war but also to surmount the obstacles preventing us from achieving final and complete peace in North Africa.

[Question] It seems that a possible settlement in West Sahara is being suggested on the basis of setting up a Saharan state in part of the territory of the former Spanish colony which would be federated with Mauritania. In your opinion, could a solution to the problem be sought on that basis?

[Answer] As far as we are concerned--and as far as has come to our knowledge--we have not discussed or considered any previously envisaged solution. In our opinion, the essential thing is that channels of contact be opened up among all parties concerned so that they can engage in dialog in an atmosphere of objectivity and calm. Solutions are usually achieved on the basis of compromises in which everybody finds at least some of his goals fulfilled. It is probably a surmise on the part of you journalists that there is a settlement underway on the basis of a federation of Mauritania and a POLISARIO Saharan territory.

[Question] But is has been said that this idea of a federation was an idea of yours and President Giscard and it is apparently also believed by Spain that perhaps that could be a good solution. Would you like to say a few words about that?

[Answer] What I can assure you is that this was in no way my idea and that I have not discussed it with President Giscard, whom I have not yet seen but whom I hope to see very soon.

[Question] In your opinion, has Spain been playing a correct role in the crisis since its withdrawal from West Sahara? Can Spain help to open up a channel of dialog which will result in the resolution of the problem?

[Answer] I believe that Spain's role is essential in this matter, in which it is in fact the "master builder." I believe in fact that Spain, Mauritania and Morocco really should and can help resolve the problem. Spain, in particular, knows it better than anybody, because it was the key figure at the start of what has happened so far. I trust that it, Mauritania and Morocco will be able to continue to seek a path coinciding with that of the international organizations, in particular, African and Arab organizations, which are also striving to put an end to this hotbed of crisis in North Africa.

[Question] But what can Spain do if the problem is in the hands of the OAU and the United Nations?

[Answer] Of course, the OAU concerns itself with the matter at this moment, but that does not prevent Spain, which can make a valuable contribution and enlighten the OAU considerably, from also doing so.

[Question] What are you expecting from Suarez' coming visit to Algiers?

[Answer] I hope it will be a somewhat positive contribution. I do not know whether Suarez will be bringing any secret proposals to Algiers, but my profound wish is that favorable results will be achieved; and that following the Algiers visit he will also meet with representatives of the other sides involved and thus be able to continue contributing to the settlement of the issue.

[Question] Morocco and Mauritania have been the immediate beneficiaries of Spain's withdrawal from the Western Sahara. Algeria, which also had its own interests, gained no advantage. In your opinion, how could Algeria be compensated for this? By granting it an exit to the Atlantic?

[Answer] I do not share the view that the Sahara is like fruit which can be sliced up so that everyone has a piece. I believe that Algeria--and until I have evidence to the contrary I will assume that this was well intentioned--only came out against the system used for decolonization because it believes that it fell short in that the Saharan people as a whole were not consulted. I believe that this, above all, is what concerns Algeria: At least this is what emerges from President Boumediene's remarks.

Algeria must not seek its access to the Atlantic through war or aggression against its neighbors but through a good-neighbor policy with ourselves and Morocco, which will prove easy if there is an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in our area of North Africa.

[Question] Mr President, are you afraid that a strong dependence by Mauritania on Morocco--especially in the military field--could endanger your country's independence or turn it into a Moroccan "protectorate?"

[Answer] That does not worry me in the least, because I believe that the Moroccans know that Mauritania cannot be dependent on them or on anyone else. Of course, strength dominates in the world, but Morocco is sufficiently reasonable and in any case demonstrates friendship toward Mauritania and evinces this in its cooperation with us. I do not believe that, if it had plans to make us dependent on it, that could benefit it as it would only be the source of further bad feelings in our region. We Mauritanians will never accept any domination of any kind.

[Question] Hitherto Mauritania suffered the most from the war unleashed by the POLISARIO Front with Algeria's aid. If the war continues, what forms of military and financial aid will Mauritania be able to count on in dealing with it? What support might Saudi Arabia provide it with in that connection?

[Answer] It is true that Mauritania suffered a great deal through the war, especially because it was unprepared for it. It did not expect it. It had no reason to believe that it would become involved in a war. While emphasizing that fact and Mauritania's strategic importance to the Arab world, I can guarantee that Saudi Arabia's backing has never consisted of supplying us with weapons for aggressive use. The backing consists of helping us preserve our personality, our identity, and I believe that this backing will continue, in view of the favorable attitude of the Saudi authorities.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON STATUS OF PEACE TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA311729Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister says that after talks today with our negotiators in Washington he can declare that there is a chance that a peace treaty with Egypt will be signed. He welcomes the idea that the peace treaty will be signed in Oslow on 10 December in the presence of the two winners of the Nobel Prize and the U.S. President. So, Mr Begin remarked, we will be able to say on the occasion of signing that we have earned the prize. Nevertheless, the prime minister noted that there is no complete certainty yet with regard to the treaty and that a date for its signing cannot be promised. We have overcome some serious obstacles but not all the obstacles have been removed yet. Mr Begin said this in a party held in his honor by the Likud Knesset faction.

Our correspondent Zevi Yisra'eli remarks that Knesset members Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir were demonstratively absent from the meeting.

Statement on Jerusalem

TA311957Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Excerpts] A senior minister told our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram today that the tension that has recently been felt in the U.S.-Israeli relations is decreasing and according to his evaluation it is possible that the prime minister's visit to the United States will even further decrease this tension.

An hour ago, the prime minister spoke in Jerusalem and here is some of what he said. [Begin videotape]

[Begin] A U.S. envoy, Mr Saunders, was here. He met with King Hussyn and told him that old Jerusalem, the part that is walled and constitutes the eastern part of the city, is conquered territory. As we have been informed, he said this on behalf of the U.S. President. Therefore, since tomorrow I leave for the United States, in the heart of Jerusalem I would like to tell my friend the President of the United States: Just as Washington is the capital of the United States, so unified Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. [applause]

Press Conference at Airport

TA010635Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0610 GMT 1 Nov 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Excerpt--intercepted in progress] [Begin recording] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, how do you regard President Carter's decision not to meet with you during your stay in the United States?

[Answer] It is not correct to say that President Carter made such a decision. I did not ask to meet with President Carter, and yesterday I received from the U.S. Ambassador the full version of the statement made by White House spokesman, Mr Powell. He said that President Carter had no plans to meet with me.

I visited the United States and met with President Carter five times: in July and December, in March, April and September [1978]. This time, I did not request any meeting with the President of the United States.

[Question] Do you expect that in the course of your visit you will be presented with a final draft of the peace treaty?

[Answer] I cannot say this with certainty. In the last few days we have overcome several rather difficult questions, but we are still faced with problems. I, together with my colleagues, will deal with them, though not as a member of the delegation, because it is headed by the foreign minister, but in the internal consultations between my colleagues and myself.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, do you share the view that you are leaving for the United States when at least, I would say, an uneasy feeling prevails in the relations between ourselves and the United States at this stage?

[Answer] I would not agree with the expression: an uneasy feeling. There are certain problems between ourselves and the United States, but they are nothing new. For example, the United States claims that our settlement activity in Judaea and Samaria is illegal and constitutes an obstacle on the road to peace, while we are convinced that our settlement work in Judaea and Samaria is legal and helps peace. We will now add population to the existing settlements--the Judaea and Samaria settlements--as I had informed President Carter at Camp David specifically: several hundred families. Certainly we will do so. I understand that there is unhappiness in the United States with this decision of the cabinet, but this is our decision. It is right, and we will carry it out. [end recording]

PROGRESS REPORTED IN WASHINGTON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

TA010549Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Nov 78 TA

[Text] A meeting is now going on in Madison House between Israeli delegation leaders Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman and the Egyptian team's chiefs Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Butrus Ghali. This was after the Egyptians took up the initiative at the end of a dinner at the home of American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Our correspondent in Washington says there was a great deal of progress in yesterday's talks, and an Israeli source said they were very near to conclusion.

The sides are now trying to overcome some unsolved questions in the agreement.

Today, the Israeli delegation will have a meeting with Vance, and the military annex to the agreement, which was completed last night, is due to be approved.

This afternoon, the Israeli delegation will go to New York to meet Prime Minister Begin who leaves this morning for the United States and Canada. Begin is to receive the Family of Man Award from the Council of Churches.

HA'AREZ REVIEWS SIDES' POSITIONS ON PEACE TREATY

TA311625Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The United States is adamant in its ambition to use the Israeli-Egyptian agreement as a model and precedent for other possible settlements between Israel and its neighbors. It emerges from recent contacts between Jerusalem and Washington that the United States views the Camp David agreements and the agreements that are being discussed at Blair House as a system of documents meant to establish a basis for reaching a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, rather than merely solving the Israeli-Egyptian conflict.

For this reason Washington is striving to include in the Israeli-Egyptian agreement formulations that would highlight the linkage between it and the rest of the problematic issues in the area, such as the future of the West Bank and the solution of the Palestinian problem. Israel rejects these trends and does not accept the proposed formulations.

The impression in Jerusalem is that Washington is more interested than Egypt in insisting on the linkage between the Israeli-Egyptian agreement and the introduction of new arrangements in the West Bank and the creation of an array of formulations that would commit Israel to set, in terms of the settlement with Egypt, a precedent that would be applicable to the solution of the conflict on its other borders.

Washington's position is arousing considerable displeasure in Jerusalem. The tension recently felt in U.S.-Israeli relations is also being reflected in the debate between the two countries on economic assistance. So far there have been no definite U.S. commitments, but a general undertaking to help finance the construction of the two air bases in the Negev. Israel demands that the United States make more explicit clarifications on economic aid, but this has not been done so far.

On the Israeli-Egyptian level, some proximity seems to have been reached regarding the formulations that are being discussed between the two parties. As far as it is known, Egypt withdrew its demand to state explicitly in the peace treaty that the terms of the treaty would be reexamined at the end of 5 years. Instead, Cairo is now proposing that the treaty should mention that Egypt may, after 5 years, propose a reexamination of its terms, provided that Israel agrees. It is expected that Israel will also oppose that formula.

There are indications of some progress in solving the question of the date of establishing full diplomatic relations between the parties and of their rank. There is also a certain rapprochement on the military arrangements in Sinai that haven't been finalized yet, including the size and kind of auxiliary forces to be deployed with the Egyptian armored division which, according to the Camp David agreements, will be encamped in the western strip of Sinai following the IDF withdrawal.

On the other hand, there is still a controversy over the status of the agreement between the two countries. Israel wants to insure that the agreement will not be affected by Egyptian commitments to other countries or by difficulties Israel is likely to encounter in realizing its autonomy plan. Egypt is striving toward formulations with an opposite purpose.

DAVAR RAPS 'VACILLATING' U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

TA311253Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 p 9 TA

[Haggay Eshed commentary: "Saunders Will Be Back"]

[Text] Saunders' mission to King Husayn and to the West Bank notables was neither the result of personal initiative nor was it a chance accident. The mission will be repeated time and again and hence will have to be followed by inevitable Israeli reactions, such as the fleshing-out of settlements. Had it not been for Saunders' mission, the fleshing-out decision would have been postponed perhaps, and it certainly wouldn't have received the publicity it did. Thus, it may reasonably be assumed that the fleshing-out decision will indeed be realized, because Saunders' mission--that is to say the U.S. policy, of which this mission is only one reflection--will be repeated time and again. Just as the Israeli Government had no choice but to proclaim its fleshing-out decision, so it will have no choice but to actually implement it. The Egyptians, for their part, will naturally be faced from time to time with the renewed trial of having to react or remain indifferent to Israeli actions, which constitute a reaction to American moves that could have been avoided.

It goes without saying that the process of making peace between Israel and Egypt will occasionally be interrupted as was the case this time and, likewise, renewed U.S. efforts will be needed time and again to mend what they themselves have spoiled.

The seeds of the recurring U.S. obstruction of the peace-making process in the Middle East lie hidden in the Brookings plan and in the difficult dilemmas which this program has raised. The Brookings plan is a "peace now" program, and this goal on the Middle East agenda contrasts with the previous goal of gradually moving toward peace by partial settlements. Anyone in favor of "peace now" has to make a clear choice between the attempt--difficult and risky in itself--to reach an Egyptian-Israeli peace only and postpone peace with Jordan and Syrian to a later stage, or to work out a comprehensive peace between Isnael and all Arab confrontation states, with full Soviet cooperation in making this "peace now." The Americans are continuously trying to accomplish both objectives, and each time they are raising difficulties and obstacles that could be avoided. This is a clear example of treading on two different paths, of vacillating between contradicting ambitions, without being able to determine a clear scale of priorities or a fitting timetable for each specific move according to its priority.

The Carter administration has been cursed with that affliction from the very beginning. That was what happened when the Americans decided, on 1 October 1977, to coordinate Middle East peace efforts with the Soviets, only to revoke that decision, at least temporarily, later. That was also the case when the Americans rejected the Egyptian and Israeli suggestion on "proximity talks" in New York, or on a Geneva conference with a Palestinian representation, which had been on in the "working paper" with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. This was also what happened when the Americans were surprised--and accordingly reacted with embarrassment and coldness--by President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, which came in reaction to earlier U.S. slaps in the face. The Americans couldn't decide whether to prefer prior coordination with the Soviets before the beginning of renewed peace efforts between Israel and its neighbors, or adopt the Kissinger method; namely, to first get an Israeli-Egyptian or an Israeli-Syrian agreement, and only at the final stage receive Soviet approval and blessing, when the agreement was already within reach. The Americans did not know whether or not to make progress in the Israeli-Egyptian sector dependent on parallel and concurrent progress in the Syrian, Jordanian and PLO sector. [paragraph continues]

The mission of Saunders joins a long line of mistakes that are the almost unavoidable consequence of attempts to bite off more than one can chew by evading clear, crucial choices between contradictory policy directions.

It is neither fair nor reasonable, from an American or Egyptian point of view, to try to force Menahem Begin to give up Judaea and Samaria right away, after he had conceded all of Sinai to avoid making concessions in Judaea and Samaria. Even before the ink has dried on the Camp David agreements, the Americans are trying to include something that is not in them. The Americans are already trying to interpret clearly and unambiguously things that have been deliverately left vague and ambiguous. If the Americans were trying to overthrow Begin's cabinet now and replace it with another one--then there could be a grain of logic in Saunders' mission. Even in that case it would be a mistake, because no Israeli cabinet could agree to all the concessions the Americans want; nor is it clear yet what the Jordanians will prefer when the time comes--an autonomy under joint Israeli-Jordanian rule, or a territorial compromise with which the Alinement could also live.

The Saunders mission has forced Begin's cabinet to hurriedly stress its intention not to give up on the permanent presence of the military and settlers in Judaea and Samaria. At the same time Saunders' mission has also caused concern among the Syrians, who fear losing influence with the PLO and with King Husayn, in view of U.S. incentives extended to the latter. Thus, the Syrians were shoved into the arms of the Iraqis and the Soviets, and the Jordanians and the PLO were also forced to adopt a more extremist line than they would have adopted had it not been for the Saunders mission.

The same rule applies to the field of relations with the Soviet Union. If the Americans desire a full and comprehensive Israeli-Arab peace, they will have no choice but to coordinate their moves with the Soviets and arrive at an agreement with them. If, on the other hand, the Americans also wish to end the Soviets' influence in Syria and the PLO, they have to take into account that that objective is liable to endanger the goal of reaching peace between Israel and Egypt.

The Americans have to decide whether they prefer an Israeli-Arab peace with the agreement of the Soviets, by dividing the Middle East between themselves and the Soviets, or whether they prefer to try to push the Soviets out of the Middle East. It seems that in both the regional sphere, and in the sphere of their relations with the Soviet Union, the Americans have not managed to do what they demand of Israel--to know how to decide what to give up, and do this according to a scale of priorities amidst contradictory goals and ambitions.

EHRLICH DENIES REPORTED SETTLEMENT ALLOCATION

TA010730Y Jerusalem POST in English 1 Nov 78 p 1, 2 TA

[By Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] The Ministerial Committee on Budgeting the Strengthening of Israel Settlements in the West Bank yesterday decided to build another 500 housing units there. But Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich denied reports that the committee had allocated 620 million Israeli pounds for the purpose.

The committee headed by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Finance Minister Ehrlich and the chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, Ari'el Sharon, met in Jerusalem yesterday. (Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who is also a member of the committee, did not attend yesterday's meeting.)

The ministers decided to build 430 housing units in Samaria and some 200 housing units in the Jordan Valley. Necessary infrastructure for agricultural development will also be prepared. This project is designed to increase the Jewish population in the West Bank by 2,500 from the present 7,000, a committee member told the Jerusalem POST last night. Some 200 housing units will be built in the Golan, the source added.

The cabinet's decision last week to beef up the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria evoked sharp reactions from President Carter.

One committee source who asked not to be identified told the POST that the ministers had allocated 300 million Israeli pounds for immediate expenditure and authorized the ministries to commission work worth another 300 million Israeli pounds--all during the current fiscal year ending April 1, 1979. The source noted that several weeks ago the government had allocated 60 million Israeli pounds to build a security road cutting across Samaria. The new budget does not include that allocation, the source said.

But Finance Minister Ehrlich told the POST, "we did not set a budget." The minister said that only now will he ask the Budget Department to evaluate the cost of building the housing units, and the money will be allocated in the budget for 1979.

MA'ARIV COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF FLESHING OUT SETTLEMENTS

TA311736Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 p 4 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Text] The fleshing-out plan in Judaea and Samaria may, at most, "yield" an additional approximately 300 families for the existing settlements in the coming months. This is on the condition that the Finance Ministry allocates the required sums and that the Housing Ministry coordinates its actions with the Jewish Agency Settlement Department.

It was reported by governmental sources yesterday that the Finance Ministry does not intend to allocate large sums for settlement in Judaea and Samaria, and that in the coming 6 months it may be possible to add between 200 to 300 families. There are vacant structures in some of the settlements, while in others additional prefabricated structures will be needed.

It was reported by the Jewish Agency Settlement Department yesterday that there is a large gap between the government's decisions and the plans of the settling institutions on the one hand, and the funds the Finance Ministry is prepared to provide to those implementing the fleshing-out plans in Judaea and Samaria, on the other. According to a senior official in the Settlement Department: "I wish that this, as little as it is, would be carried out as soon as possible."

The Housing Ministry has its own priorities, and in the framework of the current budget if prefers to begin establishing the first neighborhood in Ma'ale Adumim. According to plans, infrastructure work there will begin this month, and construction will begin immediately afterward.

In the next 2 years the Housing Ministry intends to complete 1,500 apartments, mainly intended for the families of those who will work in the local industrial plants.

The chairman of the Ma'ale Adumim Committee, Avner Perez, reported yesterday that, from a talk the committee held with Housing Minister Gid'on Pat about a week ago, he understood that a budget for building Ma'ale Adumim was guaranteed and that the minister himself supports giving highest priority to the erection of the first residential quarter in Ma'ale Adumim.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR SETTLEMENTS DECREASING

TA311633Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 p 2 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Excerpt] Dozens of families that have already contacted local absorption committees in settlements in the Jordan Valley and were about to join a number of moshavim, have cancelled their plans to settle in the valley in the wake of negotiations on establishing autonomy in the West Bank.

A visit to the Jordan Valley shows that there are dozens of housing units (some already completed) for which there is no demand.

Despite efforts to enlist additional families, there is a freeze in the population influx, there is no demand by candidates waiting to settle, and the prospect for expanding settlements is decreasing, despite the declaration to flesh them out.

In several of the Jordan Valley settlements that I visited yesterday farming plots had already been prepared for familites that were about to join, but those plots have been transferred to local residents, who thus expanded their own farms. "We feel bad," the settlers in the valley say, "because it is not the freeze or a lack of funds that is preventing further development, but the absence of potential settlers that could be brought to the Jordan Valley."

NEW URBAN SETTLEMENT PREPARED NEAR JERUSALEM

TA311533Y Tel Avia HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Ground leveling and infrastructure work for a new town near Ma'ale Adumim is due to start tomorrow, November 1. The work is described by official sources as "the transfer of the residents of Ma'ale Adumim from their temporary settlement to permanent quarters," because they fear protests and pressure from both the United States and Egypt over the establishment of a new settlement in the West Bank during the 3-month settlement freeze.

It has been learned that during the first stage of building, there is no intention of putting up more housing units than are actually needed for the present number of Ma'ale Adumim inhabitants. The new town will be built 4 km (3 km as the crow flies) west of the present temporary settlement. In time it will house tens of thousands of inhabitants. The plans for the town were completed in recent months by the Ministry of Construction and Housing. The land within the town limits comes from villages northeast of Jerusalem (including the village of Anata), which has been fenced off for this purpose during the last few years. Some of the land is government-owned.

EXPANSION CONTINUES AT SETTLEMENTS IN SAMARIA

TA311529Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Oct 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Text] Quite apart from the declaration on fleshing out the settlements, work is under way to expand some of the settlements located on a Samaria mountainside.

Five of the first 100 housing units have been delivered to Qarne Shomron. Infrastructure for the 100 units has already been prepared, and they will be put up within the coming weeks. At Haris, construction of 80 housing units (in addition to those already there) will begin next week, thus completing the 200 units of the first quarter of the settlement.

Settlement circles told this reporter that another 100 units will be sent to Haris as soon as the 80 housing units are in place.

At An Nabi Salih, a compromise on the land has been reached and soon about 40 new housing units will go up there. Under the terms of the budget for fleshing out settlements in this area, construction of 40 additional housing units will begin at Sebastia, after it is clear that suitable land can be obtained near the present settlers' camp.

At Elon, more work on greenhouses for growing flowers will be carried out within the next few days--until now building these greenhouses has not been possible.

DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON NEW NEGEV PLANS

TA312038Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The Defense Ministry has completed the new IDF deployment plan in the Negev. Today, the principles of the plan were approved in the Interministerial Committee of Directors General for Coordinating the Redeployment. After the meeting the deputy defense minister said that the withdrawal from Sinai would spur development in the Negev.

The committee decided to set up subcommittees that will examine the data and the implications of the plan and will consolidate proposals for practical implementation of the plan. Here is a report by our military correspondent, 'Amiram Nir. [begin videotape]

[Nir] The Directors General Committee was presented with only one plan today: that of the Ministry of Defense. Those present referred only to it and did not raise any alternatives of their own. The discussion centered mainly on two questions: first, how to coordinate the proposed plan for the deployment of the army in the Negev with the plans of the other ministries for civilian settlement and development of the Negev; and second, how to make use of budget, manpower and engineering equipment in Israel, so that what is done in the Negev will not harm the development plans for other parts of the country in the next few years.

From now on the subcommittees will have to deal with these two subjects in terms of practical application, while the deputy defense minister--one of the two chairmen of committee--referred to the principles.

[Zippori] In effect, work will begin along parallel lines. With the signing of the agreement, the more rapid work will involve the interim-line, providing the vital infrastructure necessary for the next 3 years. At the same time, we will launch the more substantial projects in the Negev, such as the airfields, permanent army bases and various army installations. This type of work must begin simultaneously with the rapid projects, and this is how it will be carried out.

Our main problem, and one which the subcommittees will look into, is whether we will succeed in completing this entire infrastructure within 3 years. I think that our national priority should center on this issue.

[Nir] Won't we be faced with a situation in which, due to the IDF deployment in the Negev, some of the civilian plans for the Negev will be stultified?

[Zippori] On the contrary; it will constitute a great incentive. For example, all those towns or townships--like Tel Yeroham or Mizpe Ramon--will gain great momentum. Big IDF camps with thousands of men will be established there, and I assume that most of them will also bring their families. The entire infrastructure of services--such as water, electricity, road systems--will be improved.

[Nir] The reconstruction of the Negev is bound to turn it into a new center of Israeli geography, economy and strategy. And this in turn requires an in-depth approach to planning, even at the expense of speed of application. [end videotape]

Joint Committee Assessment

TA311605Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The Committee for Planning the Military and Civilian Deployment in the Negev has found that there is sufficient heavy equipment in Israel to complete the first stage of construction in the Negev, which would result from the Sinai withdrawal. Our correspondent reports that the committee has not begun dealing with the budget because the detailed requirements of the various ministries have not arrived. The deputy defense minister and the deputy finance minister are heading this committee.

HOROWITZ GROUP REPORTEDLY NEARING SPLIT WITH LA'AM

TA010800Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Nov 78 p 2 TA

[By A. Kinarti]

[Text] The La'am Likud faction may split within a few weeks, even before the meeting of the La'am center, which has not been scheduled.

The DAVAR correspondent has learned that the five Knesset members belonging to the Horowitz group in La'am are considering a decision to precipitate the split in the faction. Those urging this are the members of the Greater Israel Movement headed by MK Moshe Shamir.

Minister Horowitz' confidantes say that he views the split in La'am as unavoidable, and it is possible that he will hint at "an impending important development in the political arena" when he delivers a speech tonight at the emergency meeting of the new body, "The Alliance of the Loyalists of Eretz Yisra'el," which also includes Ge'ula Kohen, MAFDAL Rabbi Hayyim Druckman and Rabbi Kalman Kahana from Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el.

This is apparently also the reason that MK Horowitz did not respond to the appeals this week from his faction and the Likud to withdraw his resignation from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

An important La'am personality said yesterday: "Yiga'el will not return to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, but he will surprise people with a new development in La'am, initiated by him and others." This personality said that MK Horowitz may be the leader of a new body that will also include Knesset members and personalities outside the La'am.

It seems that the new organizational developments in La'am will not take place before the municipal elections.

MAYOR OF BETHLEHEM COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON TALKS

NC281324Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Oct 78 NC

[Text] In this interview, Alan Ben-'Ami, probes the views of a prominent West Bank leader, the mayor of Bethlehem, Ilyas Frayj, concerning the Washington peace talks. [begin recording]

[Frayj] I don't anticipate any developments of any kind. There is going to be a stagnation. More divisions and confusion. The Camp David frameworks themselves do not meet the minimum demands and requirements of the Palestinian people; and that's really why we are not taking any action. We are simply not satisfied.

[Question] How do you think discussions could begin between Israel and the West Bank-Gaza residents, or between Israel and Jordan? What do you think could be the basis for such a discussion?

[Answer] First of all, we want a moratorium immediately on Jewish settlements and expansion of the existing settlements. Then, a future Israeli committment to dismantle ultimately all Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Secondly, an Israeli committment to withdraw completely from the West Bank and Gaza. Third, that our right to self determination be accepted and guaranteed. On this basis, I am willing to go to Beirut--speak with Mr 'Arafat, speak with King Husayn, speak with anybody. We will tell them: Look, these are things that might give us independence.

[Question] Don't you feel that you should come in and start talking? That any possibility of talking, any possibility of progress is better than stagnation?

[Answer] This is true, but none of us in the West Bank, including myself, have a power of attorney to enter into negotiations with any party on behalf of the Palestinian people. Only the PLO has the power of attorney to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people and to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people.

[Question] But is that really a practical answer to a practical problem. Israel completely rejects the PLO, the Americans also say they are not prepared to see any PLO's as acceptable partners in negotiations unless the PLO accepts Resolution 242. So is this a practical way of dealing with the problem, or is it just that you are shrugging responsibility off to somewhere else?

[Answer] I am not shrugging responsibility--not at all. The PLO is the official representative of the Palestinian people, whether Begin likes it or not. And Mr Begin will have to negotiate ultimately with the PLO, if he really wants to find the peaceful solution to the Palestinian crisis.

[Question] And yet, for the first time just a few weeks ago, President Carter himself called the PLO a terrorist organization; compared the PLO to the Ku Klux Klan.

[Answer] Mr Carter was not really helping the cause of peace here. I condemn him very strongly for this statement. He angered most of the people here, and he's lost the confidence of most of the people here because we are not members of the Ku Klux Klan, and there is no Ku Klux Klan in the world except in America where Carter lives, and it started in Georgia where he came from. We consider Yasir 'Arafat as the official head of of the PLO and, as such, as the official representative of the Palestinian people.

[Question] And would you be prepared to accept orders from him, instructions from him?

[Answer] Well, when I receive instructions, I will study them, if I like them, good. If I will find them not good, I will discharge them.

[Question] Don't you feel, in effect, in a very confused state at the moment, Mr Frayj, where you see possibly the opportunity of reaching what the Palestinians want slipping away from your hands and finding youself unable to do anything about it because of positions and attitudes that are being taken?

[Answer] Well, I must admit that we are faced with a crisis and with very dangerous decisions; that the Egyptians, the Americans and the Israelis are going ahead with their negotiations at work. And we lack a working paper: How to counter all these things; and we need really counterproposals; we need constructive proposals; we need a complete strategic study which really we don't have. Because we are unable to stop the Egyptians and the Israelis from signing a peace treaty, we are not able to stop Egypt from taking herself out of this conflict altogether. We are not able to stop Jewish settlements being increased in the West Bank. So, we are in a very miserable, helpless situation.

[Question] Usually, when people are in a miserable, helpless situation there's one of two solutions: Either they take their destiny into their own hands, rely on no one else but themselves because of the situation and do something about it; or they lapse into apathy. Which do you intend to choose?

[Answer] Let's wait and see what the Arab governments will do in Baghdad on November second.

[Question] But you are still relying on other people to find solutions for you?

[Answer] These are not other people. These are our neighbors and brothers. [end recording]

HADDAD NOW PREPARED TO BE COURTMARTIALED

TA312017Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] The commander of the Christian forces in the Lebanese enclave, Maj Sa'd Haddad, has changed his mind and is now prepared to be courtmartialed in Beirut, as per the Beirut government decision. Speaking to the Arab television correspondent (Salman Tawwil), Haddad said that he was preparing documents that would prove his innocence and his loyalty to Lebanon. Major Haddad did not give a date for his departure for Beirut, but said that he would do so when the Syrians withdraw from the city.

MILITARY FORCE STATIONED IN KHUZESTAN OIL INSTALLATIONS

LD312204Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] It was announced tonight that, since certain subversive elements had it in mind to put certain sections of the oil installations in Khuzestan out of action and create trouble for the oil industry workers there, a military force has been stationed in these installations in order to prevent sabotage and to safeguard the workers and the oil installations.

It was also announced that there was no anxiety whatsoever pertaining to the preparation and distribution of petroleum products, and that the course of operation will be normal.

AFP Report

TA312101Y Paris AFP in English 2030 GMT 31 Oct 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Oct 31 (AFP)--The government has moved in military technicians to get the Abadan oil refinery, paralysed by striking workers, operating again, the PARS (NEWS AGENCY) reported today. The agency said that the army had taken over control of the refinery, reputedly the world's biggest, "to prevent stagnation of production." The technicians were sent in by the military governor of Abadan, the agency said.

INFORMATION MINISTER EXPLAINS DOMESTIC POLICIES

LD311005Y Tehran PARS in English 0700 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY) 30 Oct--Minister of Information and Tourism Mohammad Reza 'Ameli Tehrani gave a press conference yesterday afternoon for local and foreign journalists. Excerpts from this press conference follow:

Q. There are rumours that Manuchehr Azmun, minister of state, has tendered his resignation but that his resignation has not been accepted. Is this true?

A. Last night we were together at a cabinet meeting and Azmun was undertaking his responsibilities seriously. Today I have had several contacts with him of an official nature.

Q. There is a rumour that there will be leading cabinet changes within two or three days. Is there any truth in this?

A. We have assumed a very difficult task which we are fulfilling to the best of our abilities and we shall continue to do so as long as we are wanted to do so. I have heard these rumours, too, but at the cabinet level so far there has been no discussion to [as received] them.

Q. How does your excellency view recent developments in Iran from the position of a responsible member of the government?

A. These developments are in fact reactions to what has happened in Iran in the last 15 years. There is no question that internal developments have had a role in creating them but we can also see streaks of guidance by outside groups that have been known to be hostile to Iran.

Q. Would you comment on the role played by the BBC, especially by the Persian version, in this regard?

A. I can comment on this organisation. The BBC is an independent body that acts separately and independently from the government that finances it. The first thing I can say is that the Iranians who run that programme are Iranians. As long as these compatriots of mine--meaning the Persian version operatives--broadcast news, strictly news, I am thankful to them and I believe there is nothing wrong about publishing news about Iran and what is going on here. In fact we are thankful to them, but as long as views are concerned as distinct from news. I should like to bring to the attention of these Iranians the fact that their comments and the guidance they have provided from this radio have caused sabotage, destruction and certain cases of arson.

Q. What evidence do you have that the "Feda'an-e Khalq" and the "Mojahedin-e Khalq" are playing a role at the moment in organising the disturbances?

A. The evidence consists of the tracts they distribute, their tactics, their slogans and their organising methods.

Q. Do you see this as a dangerous threat?

A. I do not label it a danger because I know that the Iranian nation will stand up against it, but these developments I have observed.

Q. Would you care to name any other groups who are known to be hostile to Iran and who are now active in the present disturbances?

A. Among them is the communist party of Iran, known as the Tudeh Party, and there are others that are either organised or directed by this party.

Q. Do you think the PLO is playing any particular role in creating these disturbances?

A. I decline to comment.

Q. Does the government have any particular plan to curb the wave of violence in provincial towns at present?

A. Law enforcement agencies will of course execute their responsibilities in this regard. Of course they have been instructed to avoid inflicting death as far as possible and you should consider the fact that we have issued these instructions despite the fact that they are being attacked.

Q. Your Excellency, you have been quoted by PARS NEWS AGENCY as saying on TV on Friday night that the government would allow demonstrations. Today PARS had a news item saying that the martial law administration in Ahvaz has forbidden ay demonstrations. Would you please comment on that?

A. Demonstrations are free except where there is a martial law. As to why, despite the presence of martial law, there are demonstrations in certain places, I should like to state the problem we face. There are groups that simply do not pay any attention to the law enforcement forces.

Q. Do you think the present skirmishes between pro and anti groups are the beginnings of a civil war?

A. I don't think it is the case and I hope that it won't be. I can say that if all demonstrators, both for and against, abide by the law, there will be no problem whatsoever.

Q. Yesterday there was a lot of trouble in the vicinity of Tehran University. A very (?large) number of troops were brought out to control the demonstrators and the students were not allowed onto the campus. Today there were demonstrations on the campus. Was this the result of a cabinet decision last night to permit demonstrations on the campus?

A. Martial law regulations do not permit demonstrations in Tehran, but within the campus the university authorities have the right to allow it or not to allow it because going to the university in itself presupposes a gathering of people. The university management themselves had allowed them to do it and in this respect I don't think there has been any necessity for the government or the martial law authorities to take any action.

Q. What is the legal status of the complaints against General (?Nematollah) Nasiri? Will he be prosecuted and is it also true, as reported in ETTELA'AT that 34 senior officials of SAVAK have been dismissed or retired?

A. The present government operates strictly within the current laws and it does not take any extra-legal measures. So whatever is going on, is going on according to the due process of law as recorded in the current code of laws. As far as investigations are concerned I do not have much information about this. What I have heard about the retirement or prosecution of SAVAK personnel does not really go beyond what you have heard.

Q. Has the government made any efforts to bring opposition leaders into the government?

A. First of all there is a question of how to interpret the word "opposition." At the time of the change of the minister of science and higher education, a couple of people were contacted who could be called by others members of the opposition, but the government does not take this view.

Q. Are negotiations continuing for the formation of a national government including pro and anti persons?

A. As far as we are concerned we consider ourselves a truly national government and the groups that are operating within the constitution are not considered by us as the opposition and we do not consider ourselves as opposed to them. We even go a step further and help them organize their press operations and their organisation facilities.

Q. In the past three months the government has not been capable of containing the spread of unrest and, contrary to its own declarations to keep law and order, there have been instances of deaths and injuries resulting from unrest. What policies does the government of Ja'far Sharif-Emami plan to pursue during the next three months to make sure that the next three months will be different in this respect from the last three months?

A. I wonder what any other government would have done against people who pay no attention whatever to the warnings of law enforcement forces. As far as the future is concerned, the government has decided to make sure there are no [word indistinct] whatsoever and to keep the casualties as low as possible. We hope that the nation will, in the course of time, come to realise what is happening and this new awareness of the situation will allow them to see right from wrong and behave the way they should.

Q. (Political) action like strikes, demonstrations and so (?on) at the moment is directed at the abolition of martial law. Do you think the abolition of martial law would improve the situation?

A. We remain committed to Prime Minister Sharif-Emami's promise that the government will abolish martial law at the first opportunity but this presupposes the cooperation of the demonstrators. We must remain within the constitution and be respectful to law enforcement forces regulations.

Q. There have been reports that those pro-government demonstrators are paid. Would you please comment on that?

A. In politics it is customary for each group to accuse the group opposed to it of having received money to participate in demonstrations. I do not know which or what particular demonstration or civil action you are referring to so that I can investigate the case and report to you.

Q. It is said that in Kermanshah a group of hooligans were paid 5,000 rials and the fact-finding mission of Mr Bani Ahmad claims to have proof that officials in disguise attacked the mosque in Kerman.

A. As for Kermanshah I have not had any specific reports about this so far. But I cannot deny it. In Kerman where I was, I personally received some complaints and some accusations. That is why we have organized a committee to go to the place and investigate.

Q. (?If) this situation continues, what measures will the government take?

A. The cabinet insists on following policies that will render pointless violent alternatives like the imposition of total martial (?law that) people are talking about. The plan is to allow national awareness of the situation to increase as far as possible so that the people's (?judgement) and the people's own independent view of the situation will come to the aid of the country and those who operate outside the law will be condemned by the rest of the population?

Q. (?What) is likely to constitute the break point of this waiting?

A. I think everyone is asking himself this question these days. But still the government insists on protecting freedom as well as law and order and tries its best to make sure that one is not sacrifices to the other.

Q. Would you comment on an interview published by the Iranian press today quoting AFP, according to which Ayatollah Shariat-Madari in Qom said that if their demands are not met they will have recourse to arms, and furthermore that the religious groups in Qom now recognise this as legitimate and declare their solidarity with the position of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

A. I cannot comment until I see the official text and until I have direct confirmation from the Ayatollah himself about these things. Even in the reporting text we have seen references to the constitution and the constitution of Iran, as you know, does not provide for armed rebellion.

Q. Some of the strikers in Iran have been asking that foreigners should leave the country. What is the reaction of the government to this?

A. There is no room for concern whatsoever. The government will fully protect the rights and liberties of all foreigners lawfully staying in Iran. I can say that the spreading of such rumours is the work of such groups dedicated to the creation of public anxiety.

Q. Does the government have any figures on the flight of capital from Iran and are any measures being taken to stop it, and 2, the economic situation is almost as serious as the political one. Will this cabinet take any long term decisions or will it wait until the elections?

A. As for the first question, the flight of capital, I should like to say that there are studies under way to stop the unwanted flight of capital without causing any harm to our economic relations with other nations. Of course this is strictly a survey and no decisions have so far been taken. I do not have official figures now although I can ask for them for you later. Unconfirmed figures that we hear are the same that you see in the press. On the second question we are definitely tackling the economic situation and have the sixth plan currently under consideration.

Q. What have been the effects of the strikes?

A. The strikes have just finished and it is too soon to have information on this. There have been drops in oil production but these have not been caused by the strikes but because of the particular relations now prevalent between Iran and the consortium.

Q. Can you give me any idea on how you determine which contracts will have to be dropped in order to get the money to meet the strikers demands? [and] 2, what is the long-term view on the contracts? Are you looking ahead to the future? This six-lane highway which I believe is going to be dropped is to my mind an economic necessity for this country. Are you looking at the contract in this light? And also, will there be a continuation of the work with the railways or is that going to be dropped as well?

A. The contracts we discussed pertain to this year only, and I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the current year we are talking about is the Iranian financial year of which only four months remain. Next year in the course of forming the next budget we will discuss the long-term economic situation. Of course there will be considerable money saving measures.

Q. Will the government economise on military expenditure?

A. [Words indistinct] broad perspectives, there will be savings on arms purchases.

Q. To what extent have the martial law authorities become involved in the actions of civil government in provincial towns, especially in ending strikes? I am thinking of Qazvin for one.

A. I should like to point out that martial law in Iran is simply a case of assistance to the normal forces of law and order and it should not be confused with what in other countries amounts to a coup d'etat.

Q. Can you confirm or deny reports that martial law authorities were backing the demands by strikers in Qazvin to throw out foreigners from the country?

A. We have not had any requests to throw foreigners out but there have been requests for them to be replaced by Iranians who can do the same job. In other words [word indistinct] their contracts to be terminated.

Q. (?How) does the government view its relations with a Majlis that enjoys freedom?

A. Our efforts are aimed at gaining a (?majority) in a free parliament.

Q. Can I ask for some clarification of the situation in Qazvin with the ending of the strikes there because I have (?gained) information that the martial law authorities took steps to bring the strikes to an end? Is this in fact simply supporting law and order?

A. Martial law authorities operate under specific regulations. So far all strikes have been dealt with through negotiations--meaning the management, the striking workers and the representative of the Ministry of Labour [who] have got together and discussed the demands of the strikers. But I should like to point out the fact that the martial law authorities have the right by law to arrest suspects and to stop demonstrations and gatherings against their regulations.

Q. Could you please comment on Iran's relations with its (?neighbours)--(?Iraq), the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Turkey etc.

A. Our relations are perfectly normal and there is nothing that I can point to as news.

SHARIF-EMAMI ADDRESSES MAJLIS BEFORE CENSURE VOTE

LD312302Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Prior to the reading of the text of the censure motion at today's open session of the Majlis, Prime Minister Sharif-Emami said:

[Begin recording] As all the honorable deputies are aware, even since the beginning of the work of this government we have faced a mountain of problems: extraordinary dissatisfaction by the people, extraordinary rebellion and disturbances as a result of these acts of dissatisfaction, and all the events of which every one of the honorable deputies is more or less aware. However, we should and are forced to accept responsibility, and were it not for these problems perhaps I would not have been at the service of the gentlemen today and perhaps someone else would have been at the helm. I am forced to eliminate and I am responsible for eliminating these problems. Of course, in this extremely sensitive situation a number of people, perhaps unknowingly and perhaps without harboring ill intentions, are fanning the flames and rendering the business in hand even more difficult, imagining that if this government were to go the problems would go with it. This is not so. Any government that would come would be faced with these problems. So we are dutybound to remove these problems.

These problems are multifarious and I am extremely surprised that in the text of the censure motion the honorable deputy has written that during this period no steps have been taken to remove the realm's problems. [Interruption here presumably by the Karaj deputy saying that this was not so.] The biggest problem which we faced was the question of the realm's budget, which was coupled with an extraordinary deficit. I am very happy to inform the honorable Majlis that we have been able to work out a reasonable and balanced budget, which will be presented to the Majlis soon.

We have made efforts to abrogate the restrictive laws which troubled the people, such as the restrictive law, the abrogation of the law for completing the management of housing units which absolutely lacked a practical side. [sentence as heard] Or all the instructions that were either against the interests or against the law and which caused the people trouble, such as the ban on giving information regarding the property of the people. We (?got rid) of all these so that the people could be free to take whatever decisions they liked regarding their properties and possessions.

[Words indistinct] that all government employees were not given permission. In the years 1977-78 and 1976-1977 alone we had (?an inflation) rate of 25 percent. These government employees should have a living. They should be able to carry out the business of the government and the realm free from anxiety. We were forced to give them an increase in wages. Regrettably, as a result of misinterpretations and encouragements for them to strike, they demanded in a strike what the government had previously intended to give them. Of course they were right. I cannot fault them since they were really in [words indistinct] and difficulties. But we gave them the increase that was possible, and at the same time an effort was made to insure that these raises that were given will not result in inflation unnecessarily.

To meet this situation the first step was the selfsame balanced budget which I said we have worked out. We prevented unnecessary expenditures and payments, and what was neither necessary, advantageous nor needed. We prevented all these. Special attention was also paid to the workers so that they may be given a raise and a housing (?allowance).

However, the fundamental issue which we needed to give attention to and fortunately we succeeded in doing concerned the press; we rid the press of its (?shortcomings) so that members of the press could feel they were free to write whatever they wished. Of course they also write against the government [words indistinct), but if you notice we are paying this heavy price willingly and enthusiastically since the importance of freedom of the press is much more than all this. We do not mind if they attack us, write against us and attack the government--we will bear all this. We are confident that they themselves will (?change), but having a free press is the most fundamental organ [words indistinct]. [end recording]

According to a report by our correspondent, Qiasi, the reading of the text of the censure motion by Karaj Deputy Akhbari ended at 1230.

Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami then replied to the first question raised by the Karaj deputy--on martial law. The prime minister said: The establishment of martial law in several cities in the country took place with the approval of the deputies of the Majlis, particularly you, Mr Akhbari. The prime minister said: As you said you consulted a group in writing this censure motion, I advise you to select better advisers next time. The prime minister said: Neither we nor anybody else is prepared to see anybody killed or have blood shed, but bear in mind that the government is responsible for the security, lives, properties and honor of the people. We strive so that such killings are prevented and in this regard we have issued instructions that the officers should confront demonstrations calmly. But if law enforcement officers are attacked, what should they do?

As to the second point raised by the Karaj deputy, the prime minister said: We have paid and will pay the utmost respect to the religious community. Replying to a question as to why His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni was deported, the prime minister said: This event took place 15 years ago and now you ask the present government the reason for it. And as to why we have not been tough with neighboring countries which sent him from one country to another, we have no right to interfere in the affairs of other countries, just as we will not allow them to interfere in our own affairs. On the other hand, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni did not even have freedom to speak on the television of the foreign country.

In reply to a question on oil and the consortium, the prime minister said: During the session that took place the consortium representatives entertained a futile expectation from us to which we did not agree. But should we once again have talks in this respect we will definitely apprise the honorable deputies.

As to the dollar, it has been decided to discuss this issue in a meeting with knowledgeable people. As for the price of oil, the Iranian Government is an important member of OPEC. In the past the Iranian Government also played an important part, resulting in an increase in the price of oil. At the forthcoming meeting of OPEC, Iran will accept whatever the majority of the OPEC members agree to.

In reply to the question by the Karaj deputy pertaining to the press bill, the prime minister said: We have no bill in this respect. What has been portrayed as the press bill is a proposal which was put forward by the press on the views of the press.

In reply to the question that the government had concealed the reason for the assassination of Colonel Zamani, the prime minister said: Then what is the meaning of the independence of judges? The government has no right to interfere in the legislature and judiciary. If the judiciary is independent it should not listen to my words.

Here one of the Majlis deputies said: Mr Prime Minister, all this talk stems from the smell of oil. In reply the prime minister said: Regrettably, my sense of smell is weak.

NEW MINISTER OF STATE COMMENTS ON POSITION, FUTURE

LD311942Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Mr Mostafa Paydar, newly appointed minister of state for executive affairs, spoke about his future plans today and announced that he would take steps toward implementing beliefs connected with the good and interests of the people. The new minister of state said: I think one should accept that a person should occupy a post when he can solve the people's problems by occupying that post. Posts and positions should not become a means by which a person or persons make publicity for themselves, since these posts and positions are entrusted to these persons by the people and it is natural that they should be used to further the people's good interests and those of the realm.

As to whether he would also hold the position of government spokesman in the cabinet, the new minister of state for executive affairs said: This will be a job for the ministry of information and tourism and the minister at that ministry. I shall no longer carry out this job.

DECISIONS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REPORTED

LD312224Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The Council of Ministers was convened this afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif-Emami. The session, ended a few moments ago. 'Ameli-Tehrani, the minister of information and tourism, informed reporters about the decisions of the Council of Ministers. He said: By introducing the new minister of justice, the Council of Ministers once again made clear its emphasis on fighting corruption. It was mentioned that we have lost some time in fighting corruption which we ought to make up. Iran must obtain the goals of making the judiciary independent and strengthening the role of the judges. It is thought that the weakening of the judiciary has come about since other forces interferred in it.

During today's session it was generally decided that the Red Lion and Sun Society hospitals and those of the Imperial Social Services Organization should be run by the government and by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and that most of these hospitals should be entrusted to medical schools. These changes constitute a part of carrying out the behest of the shahanshah.

Organizations which used to be run under the supervision of members of the imperial family will be entrusted to executive organs.

The minister of information said: Incidents have taken place in a number of cities. These incidents called for the dispatch of delegations to these cities at the request of the representatives of the people of these cities in the two majlises. These include Amol, Reza'iyeh, Hamadan, Sanandaj, Kerman and other cities we have in mind. Among others, a delegation made up of high-ranking members of the Interior Ministry, judges, the police, the gendarmerie and the representatives of the area will be dispatched to the cities which are subjects of request. He said: The first delegation left for Amol this evening. In certain cities people recently demonstrated in support of the government and unfortunately some of these demonstrations were not as worthy as they should have been. The goverrment strongly declares that it does not agree with such methods and does not deem such people as agreeing with it.

SHARI'AT-MADARI SAYS COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE VITAL

LD010928Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 1 Nov 78 LD

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyed Mohammad Kazem Shari'at-Madari, the esteemed authority of the Shi'ite world, in a special interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY emphasized: We do not wish the scope of differences to expand so much that the country's independence will be in danger. The government should remove the causes of unrest and discover why the people are dissatisfied and what is their complaint. If the government changes its programs, the situation is bound to return to normal.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON INCIDENTS IN PAVEH, SAR-E POL-E ZAHAB

LD312206Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The public relations department of the chief of the Supreme General Staff has issued a communique regarding the bloody events in Paveh:

According to a report by law enforcement officers, it is with deep regret that in the clashes and incidents in Raveh 11 persons were killed and 20 were wounded. Eleven of the wounded had minor injuries and were discharged from the hospital immediately.

The communique says: In Sar-e Pol-e Zahab no bodies were delivered to the coroner's office and no charges were preferred against anybody for the murder of any person, but there are strong rumors that one person was killed and that the two sides in the quarrel took the body with them. In Sar-e Pol-e Zahab nine persons were wounded, one of whom was a gendarmerie noncommissioned officer. The gendarmerie officers are pursuing the criminals and instigators who will be handed to the judiciary authorities once they are arrested.

The communique says: These murders and woundings in Paveh and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab took place between two quarrelling parties and were not caused by officers. Rather the officers tried to separate and stop the parties in order to reestablish order.

REPORTS OF VIOLENCE, DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

LD311128Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Excerpts] Large numbers of students, lecturers and other Tehran citizens again today held a rally on the Tehran University campus. At this rally, Mr Naser Darakhshan, defense attorney of a number of political prisoners, made a speech describing the country's current political situation and the students' tasks in the current strike movement.

Later, Mr Parham referred to his arrest, and then drew the attention of the young people present to the importance of greater unity and solidarity in the struggle to achieve individual and social freedoms. In conclusion, Hojattoleslam Karvani made a speech and warned the young people of the dangers of communism, calling for their unity until they have achieved their demands.

Our correspondent reports from Qom that at 1100 today large numbers of citizens of Qom as well as a large number of men of religion staged a peaceful march from the Dor-e Shahr road through the streets of Safa'iyeh, (?Eram) and Tehran without shouting any slogans. They are expected to hold a noon mass prayer at the square at the entrance to the city today. At present military personnel are maintaining surveillance, and up to noon today there has been no report of clashes between the security forces and the demonstrators.

Security forces in Mashhad this morning closed the main and side streets leading to the headquarters of the city's university and Shahnaz Hospital. When students from various levels of schools tried to join the university staff on the campus they were confronted by security forces, who resorted to the use of tear gas to disperse them. Demonstrators then proceeded to gather in Farah Street, where the university is located, and built a fire and started to shout slogans.

According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report, at 1030 today demonstrators and police clashed at Farah Crossroads in Sanandaj and police opened fire. So far five people are reported injured and in Pahlavi Hospital. In demonstrations held by a large number of people in Sanandaj last night many banks, two cars and several shops were set on fire and many shop windows were smashed. In the shooting last night, which began at 1900 and continued until midnight, two people were killed and about 30 people injured. At the moment the city is closed and sound of firing can be heard from various parts of the city.

Students and other people this morning staged a march along Pahlavi Avenue and in the bazaar region. Security forces maintained surveillance and up to 1100 there have been no clashes.

According to our correspondent, Tabriz schools are closed and Tabriz teachers are continuing their strike. After a memorial ceremony for a person who was killed while trying to make explosives last night, a group of people marched into Dowlatabad, 10 km from Esfahan, and staged antigovernment demonstrations. At the same time a group of local people, shouting national and patriotic slogans, attacked the other group and dispersed them. Several people were injured in the clashes last night.

A group of young people staged demonstrations in Yazd last night while shouting slogans. Two cinemas and several bank branches were set on fire during the demonstrations. The Yazd demonstrations last night unfortunately claimed two lives. These two, after setting fire to the Sepah Bank on Pahlavi Avenue, could not get out of the bank after setting fire to it and were burned to death.

Reza'iyeh educators entered their third day of a sit-in inside the Reza'iyeh courthouse. The number of those involved in the sit-in is increasing every day and the courthouse is now teaming with people as other educators are constantly joining in. At the same time students and shopkeepers have also joined the sit-in. They are demanding the implementation of the statements which had been issued earlier. Reza'iyeh University academicians have also declared their solidarity with the educators in a statement.

29 POLITICAL DETAINEES GRANTED AMNESTY

LD311612Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] A spokesman for the military governorate of Esfahan has announced that on the happy occasion of his imperial highness the crown prince's birthday, 29 people under detention were released today.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

LD311958Y Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Esfahan University was closed today and the students held demonstrations on the campus. Meanwhile, another demonstration was held by students in the city of Sari, in the north of Iran. The students requested the release of political prisoners and the abolition of martial law. Several other demonstrations were held in the northern cities of Shahsavar, Chalus, Nowshahr and Shahi.

RADIO, TV ORGANIZATION AGREES TO ABOLISH CENSORSHIP

LD311738Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] The managing director of the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization [NIRTO] has agreed to guarantee to meet the workers demand for the abolition of censorship on news broadcasts. NIRTO's managing director said that Iran's territorial integrity and the safeguarding of the constitution constitute our main motto.

STAFF OF MORNING PAPER ON STRIKE

LD311054Y Tehran PARS in English 0808 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 30 Oct PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Persian-language morning paper AYANDEGAN was not printed today due to a strike by writers and reporters. This is the first such incident since the granting of freedom and the second in the history of the paper. The assistant editor of the paper, Mas'ud Mohajer, said the strike was to protest against self-censorship at the paper and the presence and undemocratic policies of the editor, Hushang Vaziri.

The printing staff of the paper pledged their support for the writers and reporters and joined the strike. The resolution put out by the staff said that the only way to create a balance between the needs of the paper and the social needs of the country was to fire the editor and create a council to formulate the policy of the paper. In the resolution, the editor is also accused of opposing the strikers and asking the authorities to seal the printing press. The strikers have refused any reconciliation, said Mohajer.

According to reports, the staff of the paper had a meeting with the editor when the staff reminded him of the harm done by self-censorship. The editor, however, considered some censorship necessary [words indistinct] negotiations were [word indistinct]. The editor insisted on maintaining his autocartic policy, and asked those who did not like his policy to leave the paper. He warned that censorship would be applied more vigorously. Following the strike announcement, the editor dismissed some employees.

NATIONAL BANK STRIKE ENDS 31 OCTOBER

LD311056Y Tehran PARS in English 0935 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD

[Text] Tehran Oct 31 (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Bank-e Melli strike ended this morning when the bank's management approved increases in Bank-e Melli staff salaries: 35 per cent for lower grades and 20 per cent for higher grades; equivalent to Bank-e Markazi (Central Bank of Iran) staff salaries, Jalil Shoraka, Bank-e Melli director, announced this morning. Branches in Tehran and the provinces started work this morning, but a slowdown continues at the central branch in Tehran, but it is expected to be ended by the end of today.

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN ENERGY TALKS--Tehran, 30 Oct, PANA--The Brazilian Minister of Mines and Energy Shigeaki Ueki met Iranian Minister of Energy Jahangir Mahd-Mina today. Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of electrical appliances and the transfer of technology were discussed. The two sides also exchanged views on further contacts about energy issues. The ambassadors of the two countries were also present during the talks. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 0806 GMT 31 Oct 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

PATHAN GUERRILLAS CLAIM TO HAVE KILLED 100 AFGHAN SOLDIERS

BK291551Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 29 Oct 78 BK

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 29 (AFP)--More than 100 Afghan soldiers were killed in clashes with Pathan guerrillas in east Afghanistan from October 17-19, according to a communique issued here today by the Afghan Islamic Revolution Movement (IRM). The communique said the fighting took place in Konar, Laghman and Paktia provinces, respectively north-east, east and south-east of Kabul.

For the first time the guerrillas claimed they had killed a Soviet officer on Oct 17 at Kamdesh in Konar. The IRM claims large numbers of Russian officers have taken high positions in the Afghan Army since the revolution last April.

As the regions in question are isolated it is impossible for foreign correspondents to check up on the reality of the scale of the fighting. But Kabul residents have said serious enough incidents to necessitate army intervention took place recently in those provinces. Witnesses said Kamdesh, a town in north Konar, had been razed to the ground, and this has also been confirmed by the arrival of hundreds of refugees from that region in provinces bordering Pakistan.

FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS AT RECEPTION FOR DPRK VICE PREMIER

LDT301958Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 18 Oct LD

[Speech by Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at a reception in honor of the DPRK vice premier and foreign minister on 17 October--place not specified]

[Excerpts] Dear Comrade, DPRK vice premier and foreign minister, dear friends and esteemed guests: I am happy to welcome you on this occasion and on your arrival in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan at the start of your official and friendly visit.

Our relations with the joint friend of the DRA and the DPRK and our great northern neighbor, the USSR, are gaining daily. These relations are increasing, expanding and consolidating for the benefit of the people of both countries and of the whole world. As is known to our friends, the positive expansion of fruitful cooperation in the relations of our two countries has given our relations (?a quality) which makes them a high example of good-neighborliness in the world.

Our relations with the great country of India are expanding, as desired. The visits of Indian officials to our country have provided the ground for strengthening the ties and expanding cooperation between our two countries. We sincerely desire the further expansion of our relations with both our neighbors, Iran and the People's Republic of China, for the benefit of the people of these countries and peace in the world and the region.

Our relations with Pakistan could be more normal and friendly (?than before). Our desire for the solution of the only political difference regarding the national issue of the Pushtun and Baluch people in the light of historical precedents and friendly and cordial talks with Pakistan is completely clear.

The recent unofficial visit of Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, (?to our country)--which took place on his own proposal--was welcomed with pleasure; during the unofficial talks, he expressed hope for the solution of this single political difference. We hope that further contacts will result in greater transit facilities and that surface transit from India to Afghanistan will be made possible. We hope to strengthen and expand our relations with all the world countries in a peaceful manner and a spirit of cooperation and nonintervention in each other's affairs.

Dear Comrade, your country is one among the group of fraternal countries with which we have always desired the strengthening and expansion of our relations. It was on the basis of this desire and in accordance with the basic lines of the revolutionary duties of the DRA that we opposed the idea of two Koreas and decided to extend official recognition to only one Korea, which represents the people of a one and unified Korea [applause], and that is your country, the DPRK. In compliance with this principle, we broke off our diplomatic relations with the so-called Republic of Korea. Our people and government are firmly desirous of the peaceful unification of Korea, free of foreign interference; we also support the withdrawal of all foreign forces and the closure of their military bases from the southern part of the Korean Peninsula. In our view, the existence of these forces and military bases has obstructed persistent efforts for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

We believe that the socialist countries, and the Soviet Union in the first place, are genuine friends of the nonalined movement. The nonalined countries' summit which is scheduled to open in heroic Cuba will play a prominent role for the benefit of the struggle of the world underpriviiiged people against colonialism and imperialism. With their joint and firm support for the nonalined movement, the world popular regimes and revolutionary countries will be able to further (?repudiate) imperialism.

We believe that efforts that are taking place for a just and durable peace in the Middle East can only succeed when all the (?interested) parties including the PLO participate equally. On the basis of this principle, I do not think that a bilateral agreement without the participation of all the parties to the Middle East problem will open the way to a comprehensive, just and durable (?peace). In the present circumstances, the DRA believes that the Geneva conference with the full participation of the PLO can effectively explore a solution for the Middle East problem and (?take appropriate decisions).

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the USSR and other socialist countries for the economic development of our beloved homeland. We hope that other friendly countries will take a greater and more extensive part in this task. We warmly shake the hands of anyone who supports our revolution through effective assistance. We ask all fraternal and friendly countries to further increase their fraternal and friendly cooperation for our greater economic progress and our struggle against all the shortcomings we inherited from the past.

INDIA

WESTERN COOPERATION SOUGHT IN SUBMARINE PRODUCTION

BK301029Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 78 BK

[Text] India is seeking collaboration with France, Germany, Holland and Sweden for indigenous production of submarines.

This was stated by the union minister of state for defense, Prof Sher Singh, in Rohtak. In an interview with the AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent, he said the modernization of the armed forces is a continuous process. He pointed out that India believes in peace and has no territorial ambitions.

SRI LANKA PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE MEETS DESAI, KUNDU

BK271611Y Delhi ISI in English 1441 GMT 27 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene and Prime Minister Morarji Desai held talks in New Delhi, reports PTI. Desai called on the Sri Lanka leader at Rashtrapati Bhavan where he is staying.

Earlier, the minister of state for external affairs, Samarendra Kundu, also called on Jayewardene.

According to the schedule, External Affairs Minister A.B. Vajpayee was to have called on Jayewardene, but he could not do so because of illness.

Holds Press Conference

BK281621Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Sri Lanka President J.R. Jayewardene has urged greater participation by Indian investors in the free trade zone in his country. He told a news conference in New Delhi this evening that goods produced in the zone could be imported into India and help reduce the gap in the trade balance between the two countries. At present Sri Lanka has an adverse trade balance with India to the extent of 350 million rupees. He said India has been consistently offering to import more from Sri Lanka, but Sri Lanka has nothing to offer. The only solution is to produce more goods in the free trade zone which are needed in India. He said he has discussed this question with the Indian leaders and their response was favorable.

Answering a question about the Tamil-speaking people [in Sri Lanka] who had asked for a separate state, Mr Jayewardene said they had some genuine grievances. His government has taken steps to remove them, especially in the matter of language, education and appointments. His approach was that of trust and understanding. He extended friendship to anyone who is a citizen of Sri Lanka without any racial, caste or color prejudices. Unfortunately, there are some militant elements who are not prepared to listen to reason and resort to violence.

Answering questions about his talks with the Indian leaders, Mr Jayewardene said he found total indentity of views between the two countries on all matters. We have no problems. He expected bilateral economic cooperation to receive a fillip as a result of his discussions in New Delhi.

Mr Jayewardene said he is in favor of freer movement of travelers between the two countries and the acceptance of each other's currency for tourist traffic.

Mr Jayewardene made an impassioned appeal for nonviolence in settling disputes. He said he could not understand how any country can justify the use of violence. The firm commitment to nonviolence binds me to Mr Morarji Desai, he said.

Referring to the Camp David agreement, he said if a peace treaty is signed and implemented, it would be a step toward peace.

Asked about the unity of the nonalined movement, Mr Jayewardene said there might be differences during discussions, but the decisions are accepted by all. He denied that there was any change in the Sri Lanka Government's decision on the Indian Ocean.

Earlier today, Mr Jayewardene had more talks with Mr Morarji Desai. These were followed by a lunch hosted by the prime minister.

Statement on Visit

BK300946Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 78 BK

[Text] India and Sri Lanka have agreed to increase trade between the two countries and to stimulate Indian investments in joint ventures in Sri Lanak. Both countries will exchange delegations at ministerial level for this purpose. This has been stated in a joint press statement issued at the end of the 4-day visit to New Delhi by the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene.

The statement said that during their fruitful talks both sides covered a wide range of subjects on bilateral cooperation and international relations. The Sri Lanka president and the prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, discussed various concrete possibilities for expanding the field of bilateral cooperation. They also agreed that the subcommittee on economic cooperation should meet more frequently. The working group is to initiate action on this recommendation soon.

CPI'S NAIR TO BE NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA

BK271624Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Mr P.K. Vasudevan Nair of the CPI [Communist Party of India] is to be the next chief minister of Kerala. He was chosen leader of the ruling united front at a meeting of the leaders of the constituent parties in Trivandrum today. Mr Nair will head a 14-member cabinet which will be sworn in on Sunday [29 October].

This is a sequel to Mr Anthony's resignation as the state chief minister this morning. Mr Anthony had announced his intention to resign on Wednesday as a protest against the Congress decision to oppose the Janata Party candidate in the Chikmagalur byelection. He was in office for 18 months at the head of the five-party coalition. His was the eighth ministry since the formation of Kerala in 1956.

AIR's [All-India Radio] Trivandrum correspondent understands that all the members of the outgoing ministry, except Mr Anthony, will be included in the new cabinet.

SEYCHELLES FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS, SIGNS AGREEMENT

BK300940Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 78 BK

[Text] India and the Seychelles have signed their first ever agreement on economic and technical cooperation. It provides for the setting up of joint ventures and the exchange of experts in economic and technical fields.

The agreement was signed by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Kundu, and the Seychelles foreign minister, Mr Guy Sinon, who arrived in the capital earlier in the day.

India has already been supplying house building materials and providing scholarships to students of this Indian Ocean republic, which has a population of 62,000.

Mr Kundu described the agreement as a true reflection of the deep ties that bind the two countries and said it has added a new dimension to their relations.

CONGRESS-I, JANATA WORKERS CLASH IN GANDHI ELECTORAL DISTRICT

BK3107447 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Six persons were injured and two vehicles damaged in skirmishes between the Congress-I and Janata Party workers at (Banikel) near Chikmagalur. Reports of clashes have also come in from Kerala town. Five persons sustained minor injuries in a clash. Janata Party workers alleged that their local office was attacked by the Congress-I supporters, while the Congress-I has complained that their volunteers were assaulted by Janata Party workers.

Patrolling was intensified and police pickets were posted in the area.

Speaking to newsmen at Chikmagalur, the Janata Party general secretary, Mr Ramkrishna Hegde, alleged that the Congress-I is indulging in violence to somehow get the election postponed, as they are convinced of defeat.

PAKISTAN

HAQ APPOINTS NEW AZAD JAMMU, KASHMIR PRESIDENT

BK3017307 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Oct 78 BK

[Text] Brigadier Mohammad Hayat Khan has been appointed president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in place of Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, who has been relieved of his office. A proclamation to this effect has been issued in Rawalpindi by the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in his capacity as chairman of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council.

The proclamation points out that section 56 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir interim constitution act, 1974, provides that nothing in this act shall derogate from the responsibilities of the Pakistan Government under the UNCIP [United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan] resolutions or prevent it from taking action it may consider necessary or expedient for the effective discharge of these responsibilities.

It says the Pakistan Government is satisfied that it is necessary for the better government and administration of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to relieve the present incumbent and to appoint another person in his place.

It says Brigadier Mohammad Hayat Khan will be president in addition to his duties as chief executive of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.